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ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

ETHICS
CHAIRMAN

FOREIGN RELATIONS
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT,
THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

January 1, 2006

Dear Fellow Ohioan,

I am pleased to present my annual report for 2005. This report describes what I've accomplished in the Senate on behalf of our state and the nation.

2005 Highlights:

2005 was my most productive year since I came to the Senate. Highlights include:

- Saving approximately 3,000 Ohio jobs and gaining approximately 1,600 Ohio jobs through the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process;
- Securing funding for Ohio's highway infrastructure in the Highway Bill, which provides \$6.646 billion – a 36 percent increase in funds – over five years for highways; and
- Passing an Energy Bill, marking the first time in decades that we have had a comprehensive energy policy.

Ohio's Voice in Washington

In addition to those specific accomplishments, I strive continuously to assure that your voice is heard in Washington. My committee service gives me an unprecedented opportunity to represent you. I chair two subcommittees and sit on the Foreign Relations Committee. Furthermore, I chair the Senate Ethics Committee. As chairman, I join Majority Leader Bill Frist and other chairmen in weekly leadership meetings where we set the Senate's legislative agenda. In 2005, I had the opportunity to chair 22 hearings on a wide variety of topics.

In these and other settings, I have made progress on four matters of intense interest to Ohioans – assuring fiscal responsibility, increasing national security, protecting American competitiveness, and improving government.

Fiscal Responsibility: When I make spending decisions, I think not only about the short-term benefits, but also the long-term costs. Specifically, the deficit figure often cited for 2005 of \$319 billion ignores the \$175 billion that was borrowed from the Social Security Trust Fund and other federal accounts. It is unconscionable to pass on an additional \$494 billion of debt to our children and grandchildren. For my continued commitment to keep our budget under control, I have become known as the “debt hawk” in the United States Senate.

National Security: Winning the war on terror is critical to bringing stability to the Middle East and security to the United States. Much progress was made in Iraq in 2005. Elections were held in January and December, and a constitutional referendum occurred in October. I will continue to push for increased international involvement in this effort as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

American Competitiveness: In the increasing competition of the global marketplace, intellectual property is one of the few areas where the United States has a clear advantage over foreign competitors, and we need to protect this advantage. That's why I have focused so much energy on protecting America's intellectual property rights, including traveling to China to discuss this issue with Premier Wen. This year, in order to level the playing field we made some progress toward a comprehensive energy policy by passing the Energy Bill; however, it is time for our nation to declare a "Second Declaration of Independence" – independence from foreign energy sources.

Improving Government: I have made the reform of the federal workforce one of my top priorities, enacting more reforms to the federal civil service during my time as Subcommittee chairman than have been made in the previous 25 years. I believe that in order to get the most out of the taxpayers' money, we need to have the right people with the right skills at the right place and time. This means attracting and retaining a top-notch federal workforce.

This annual report provides further details on these issues and the other work I'm doing in Washington on your behalf. I hope that you too will be proud of these successes.

My work in the United States is deeply fulfilling. I know that with your help we are making a difference for our state and our nation, particularly for our children and grandchildren whose future we're creating. You have put a great trust in me, and I am thankful for the privilege to serve Ohio. I look forward to hearing your ideas on how together we can continue to make Ohio and the nation a better place to live.

Together we can do it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George V. Voinovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" being the most prominent.

George V. Voinovich
United States Senator

U.S. Senator George V. Voinovich 2005 Annual Report

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As a public servant who has served at every level of government, Senator Voinovich has a wealth of management experience that he draws upon to help improve the quality and efficiency of the services that the federal government provides to the nation's taxpayers.

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In 2005, Senator Voinovich received a number of national and international awards in recognition of his efforts to strengthen the economy, improve our international relations and build better communities.

Serving Ohio First

Back when I was a state representative and just beginning my career in government, I was asked how I would confront the problems of Ohio if I had a magic wand. My answer then was the same as it is now: I would use it to reconstitute and protect the family, which is the foundation of this country and the reason why most of us get up in the morning, go to work and hurry to get home at the end of the day.

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Letter to the Editor, July 18, 2005

First and Foremost – Ohio Priorities

Senator Voinovich always refers to his wife of 43 years, Janet, as his first great love and the state of Ohio as his second. He was born and raised in Cleveland and still lives in the same house where he and Janet raised their children. When Congress is not in session, he takes every opportunity to return to Ohio and meet with the people he serves. Whether it's discussing the manufacturing climate with workers in Toledo, helping seniors understand the new Medicare prescription drug benefit in nearly 20 cities, attending the Cleveland Air Show, guest conducting the All-Ohio State Fair Youth Choir at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus, or talking with homeland security officials and the business community in Cincinnati, Senator Voinovich maintained a busy schedule in 2005. He crisscrossed Ohio to be accessible to the people he serves and learn firsthand what's on their minds.

Helping Ohioans Solve Problems

In 1999, Senator Voinovich teamed up with Ohio's senior senator, Mike DeWine, to create a joint casework office that helps Ohioans solve problems with federal agencies and programs. The joint operation helps Ohioans save time and money by providing one contact point for both senators. It also saves taxpayers the cost of maintaining two offices and staffs.

In 2005, the senator's experienced casework staff opened more than 5,600 cases, and brought a successful close to approximately 70 percent of them. They also fielded countless phone calls. Following are excerpts from letters of thanks the senator received:

- "I would like to thank you and your staff members for the courtesy, knowledge, promptness, and professionalism displayed in solving our problem. It's refreshing to know that there are still people who care enough and are willing to help the 'little people' here in the State of Ohio." *R.G., Jefferson, Ohio*
- "We would like to thank you for your kind, patient, and competent help obtaining a passport for our son...You dealt with his immigration and adoptive status with ease, and handled the added complication of Hurricane Katrina with professional aplomb. We are deeply grateful for your efforts on our behalf." *C.G., Columbus, Ohio*
- "I am writing to thank you and your staff for your rapid assistance in getting resolution to our son's application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for disaster relief assistance after evacuating from New Orleans during the Katrina Hurricane. We received a response from FEMA November 16, 2005, very shortly after we had contacted your office." *E.S., Cincinnati, Ohio*
- "I want to express my appreciation to you and your office for the assistance rendered to me recently... I was on the verge of laying off several of my experienced staff in Toledo when I sought help from your office... Thanks to the work of you and your staff, I can now return to Toledo to continue my service in the Reserves and I can continue to employ the staff at my Toledo practice." *R.K., Toledo, Ohio*

Listening, Responding to Ohioans

Senator Voinovich places the needs of Ohioans before all else. That's why throughout his entire career in public service, Senator Voinovich always includes listening and responding to the policy concerns of Ohioans in his decision-making process. In fact, Senator Voinovich responded to more than 29,600 letters, and countless e-mails and phone calls regarding policy issues from Ohioans in 2005. In addition, the senator's staff fulfilled 438 requests for American flags and arranged tours of the U.S. Capitol for approximately 300 groups.

Serving Southeast Ohio: Moving to Nelsonville

In November, Senator Voinovich moved his southeast Ohio office to a more centralized location with greater access for his southeast Ohio constituents. Appalachian Ohio holds a special place in the senator's heart, as it is home to his alma mater, Ohio University, and he remains dedicated to helping the counties in this region move forward. He originally opened his office in Appalachian Ohio to ensure that citizens in the region could easily visit with his staff and seek information or assistance.

The office staff keeps the Senator apprised of issues of regional concern and input from constituents. The office facilitates casework assistance to constituents, assists communities seeking federal appropriations, and works with community leaders to help Senator Voinovich continue to be a strong and responsive federal partner. The new office is located at 78 West Washington Street in Nelsonville.

Honoring Ohio's Soldiers

Senator Voinovich has been in communication with the survivors of those who have given their lives serving our country, to express sympathy and offer help. Ohio has lost over 100 soldiers in the global war on terror.

Helping Fund Ohio Projects

Senator Voinovich works hard to help Ohioans through the arduous task of securing federal discretionary grants for worthwhile projects. In 2005, the senator drafted more than 94 letters of support and responded to over 152 requests for grant information. Thanks to his help, Ohioans secured almost \$30 million in federal grants. Some of the highlights include:

- \$20 million to the Springfield Metropolitan Housing Authority to revitalize the Lincoln Park public housing development;
- \$3.2 million to the Ohio Board of Regents for mobile technologies to improve math and science learning in underperforming schools. The project will establish a multi-state K-16 consortium comprised of educational, telecommunications and research agencies in Ohio, Kansas, New Mexico and California;
- \$600,000 to the city of Gahanna to fund a Brownfields program. The city will redevelop the Bedford Landfill site into a high-tech industrial and office development that will generate 100 new jobs and promote redevelopment in the surrounding area;
- \$937,806 to the Miami Conservancy District for funding in the conservational Innovation Grant Program. The district proposes to improve water quality by reducing nutrient transport in the Great Miami River Watershed, Ohio River, Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico. The award will be used for water quality credit tracking, monitoring and analysis;
- \$700,000 to the City of Wellston to make access road improvements for South New Hampshire Avenue in the City of Wellston. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds will be used for engineering design and improvements;
- \$772,459 to the Hamilton County Success by 6 Community Council for the Early Learning Opportunities Act Program. This program works closely with parents and child care providers to deliver education and capacity building activities. In collaboration with the United Way of

Cincinnati, funding will enable the Council to help ensure children are ready to succeed when they enter kindergarten; and

- \$100,000 to the Special Education Services in Cuyahoga County to fund the Community Parent Resource Centers Program. The grant will provide training to low-income and underserved families in the Greater Cleveland area to help underrepresented families understand their children's special education needs, and teach parents how to advocate for needed services.

Finding and Fighting Fakes: Preserving Our Position in the Global Marketplace

With Ohio manufacturers employing more than one million Ohioans and contributing more than \$89 billion to the state's economy annually, encouraging the sector's economic growth is critical to the state's economic prosperity. The senator has been a long-time supporter of Ohio manufacturing and continues to work on its behalf in the Senate.

Factors outside the control of Ohio manufacturers have presented them with problems that threaten their survival. Unfair foreign trade practices – especially from China, soaring costs for energy and health care, and trial attorneys who abuse our courts have descended upon the industry, threatening our competitive position in the global marketplace. After identifying the concern that American products are being illegally reproduced in other countries, the senator held a hearing on June 14, 2005, titled, "Finding and Fighting Fakes: Reviewing the Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy." He also met with Premier Wen in China to discuss how such intellectual property theft hurts not only American manufacturing, but Chinese companies as well. Additionally, the senator introduced legislation, the *Intellectual Property Enforcement Act*, on November 9, 2005, aimed at bolstering domestic and international enforcement of intellectual property law and agreements. The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Helping Find Solutions to Ohio's Health Care Concerns

Access to affordable, quality health care continues to be a concern for Ohio's families and to Senator Voinovich. In order to help find solutions and explain new federal programs that can help, Senator Voinovich traveled across the state to learn about the health care concerns of Ohio's families, seniors, and veterans.

In 2005, he personally held seven meetings to discuss health care, explain the new voluntary Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit, and the safe importation of prescription drugs from Canada and other countries. Further, since 2003, representatives from his office have reached over 6,300 beneficiaries at over 115 meetings and events, where they helped to explain how the new Medicare prescription drug benefit could help them, listened to Ohio's seniors and then reported their concerns back to the senator.

Senator Voinovich also produced an informational video to help explain the importance and details of the new benefit, and created an original four-page color brochure to accompany the video. The video became a model for other Senate offices.

Senator Voinovich is a co-sponsor of the *Healthy America Act*, which applies the recommendations of the Republican Task Force on the Uninsured. Senator Voinovich was a member of this leadership group in the 108th Congress. The bill focuses on increasing access to health care by eliminating medical liability abuse, reducing administrative and paperwork burdens on providers, increasing the use of health care technology and improving patient safety and our nation's health care safety-net system. The bill is still pending before the Senate.

Improving Emergency Management and Protecting Our First Responders

Senator Voinovich has long supported the efforts of our emergency first responders. The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program was created to assist in developing an effective emergency response system at the state and local level that can handle disasters and emergencies of all types and sizes. It is the only source of federal assistance to state and local governments to aid with their

emergency management capabilities. Despite its effectiveness, the EMPG program is under-funded. This year Senator Voinovich fought for increased funding for the program. Notwithstanding difficult decisions facing the Homeland Security Appropriations Conference, Senator Voinovich was successful in securing a \$5 million increase in program funding.

After September 11, 2001, thousands of workers and volunteers from around the country, including Ohio, responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center. As a result of their heroic efforts, many were exposed to a wide range of hazardous conditions, posing risks to their physical and psychological well-being. Though the health concerns of those first responders were eventually met, no permanent program was implemented to monitor the health of our first responders in the event of another attack or disaster. Other disasters such as Hurricane Katrina highlight the need for this legislation.

Senator Voinovich introduced S. 1741, the *Disaster Area Health and Environmental Monitoring Act of 2005*, because FEMA does not currently have authority to conduct long-term monitoring of health impacts from environmental exposures in the wake of a disaster. This legislation would allow the President to carry out a program for the protection, assessment, monitoring and study of the health and safety of people exposed to harmful substances. The enactment of this legislation would send a message to our first responders that America cares about its first responders, and Senator Voinovich will push for its passage next year.

NASA Glenn Research Center

Ohio is a national leader in high-tech aviation and aeronautics research in part because of organizations like the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. The NASA Glenn Research Center is also a leading contributor to Ohio's economic and academic vitality, contributing more than \$1 billion to the state's economy annually and creating more than 12,000 jobs. NASA Glenn is a vital component for both NASA and greater Northeast Ohio, and Senator Voinovich continues to support it.

The senator was pleased that with his support, funding for Aeronautics Research in the Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) appropriations was \$912.6 million, \$60 million above the President's proposal. Senator Voinovich also helped secure \$1.1 million for NASA Glenn research and technology programs in advanced aeronautics, including turbine engine research, in the *2006 CJS Conference Report*.

The senator was also pleased that the Senate version of the *2006 National Defense Authorization Act* included a provision for which he fought requiring a report on cooperation by the Department of Defense and NASA regarding areas of mutual interest, including aeronautics research and propulsion and power technologies.

By using a parliamentary procedure, Senator Voinovich held passage of the *NASA Authorization Act*, which sets NASA's long-term agenda, until he was able to negotiate a series of amendments to protect NASA Glenn and the Northeast Ohio aerospace and academic communities. The amendments include language directing NASA to:

- **Conduct a human health and safety program supporting human space flight missions.** This program would utilize expertise at NASA Glenn and area partners, such as the Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University, to develop medical monitoring, cardiac health and other programs to aid space exploration.
- **Develop advanced surface power systems for use on the moon and Mars.** A central requirement for NASA's planned moon and Mars operations is a reliable source of power. NASA Glenn is the recognized leader in this area, having led development of power systems for the International Space Station. Glenn is expected to be the lead within the agency for this program.
- **Fully utilize existing staff at NASA field centers for work associated with the Vision for Space Exploration.** This requirement dictates that NASA must look internally first when assigning new projects. The bill also requires NASA to balance space exploration projects between field centers to utilize capabilities such as power and propulsion at NASA Glenn.

- **Continue the successful and longstanding commercialization program until a new program is approved by Congress.** NASA Glenn is home to numerous commercialization programs – which focus on transferring technology into and out of NASA – including the Great Lakes Innovation and Technology Center and the Glenn Alliance for Technology Exchange. This language keeps those programs open as the Administration works to establish a broad new approach to commercial technology.
- **Maintain a prohibition on reductions-in-force until June 1, 2007,** giving agency planners and staff members time to begin carrying out new space exploration and aeronautics policies before rushing headlong into major staffing decisions.
- **Carry out elements of a new aeronautics title authored by Senator Mike DeWine that calls for reinvigorated research** in key areas of strength at NASA Glenn, including hypersonics, propulsion, environmental aircraft development and fuel cells. The title protects aeronautics test facilities, and lays out specific considerations for the President and NASA Administrator as they formulate a comprehensive National Aeronautics Policy.

In March, during Senate consideration of the Budget Resolution, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored a Sense of the Senate amendment with Senators George Allen, John Warner, and Mike DeWine that called for increased funding for the vehicle systems portion of the Aeronautics Mission Directorate budget for use in subsonic and hypersonic aeronautical research. The amendment acknowledged that aeronautics funding is important to our nation's economic and military security and that NASA aeronautics work has played a critical role in the growth of our nation's aeronautics industry.

Closing the Back Door on Indian Gambling

Senator Voinovich is opposed to bringing gambling to Ohio for one simple reason – families. The statistics speak for themselves: divorce rates, suicides rates and bankruptcy rates are all higher among gamblers than non-gamblers, and violent crime rates “spike” in casino counties, as do embezzlement and fraud rates. Nevertheless, state and local community planners are enticed by the promise of job creation and a stronger tax base. The reality, however, is that every tax dollar that comes from casino gambling results in \$3 in social welfare costs.

The explosive growth of Indian “reservation shopping” and gambling is becoming a problem in Ohio and a number of states nationwide. Currently, there are over 400 tribal casinos in 30 states. The tribes who run these casinos have seen a substantial financial benefit to their tribes. According to the National Indian Gaming Commission, tribal casinos generated almost \$19.5 billion in revenue last year.

To build on the financial success of these tribal casinos, some Native American tribes are aggressively seeking to take gambling off reservations and into local communities all across the country. In this practice, commonly referred to as “reservation shopping,” tribes are looking to acquire new, non-contiguous land to open casinos near large communities or next to major roads with easy access.

A provision in the law that regulates Indian gambling, the *Indian Gaming Regulatory Act* (IGRA), allows the Department of Interior to take land into trust for a tribal casino, even at great distances from their home reservation, if it advances the economic interest of the tribe. Originally, many reservations were located in rural areas at great distances from population centers. Unable to sustain profitable casinos, they have begun moving casinos to areas near cities. The tribes are looking at lands great distances from their reservations and near population centers like Cleveland, Chicago, Miami and the Bay Area of California, to name a few.

In Ohio, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma has filed a land claim in federal court for over 93,440 acres of land and hunting rights to four million acres of land throughout the state. This suit is against the state of Ohio, 36 counties in the state, and a number of cities and private landowners. To put this in perspective, the land claim is roughly 146 square miles – almost the size of Cleveland and Cincinnati combined.

In addition to this lawsuit, the tribe has reached agreements with four communities in Ohio to site casinos in those communities. In announcing their lawsuit, the Eastern Shawnee announced that the land claim would be dropped in exchange for the right to put an unlimited number of casinos in the state – essentially pressuring the state to settle.

By filing this claim, the Eastern Shawnee tribe is exploiting existing federal law. The *Indian Claims Commission Act of 1946*, which was created expressly to resolve land claims against the federal government, required that any claims be filed within five years of enactment. Because the tribe is precluded from suing the federal government, it is suing the state.

In response to the threat of reservation shopping nationwide, Senator Voinovich authored an amendment to the Interior Department spending bill that would prevent land from being put into trust for the purpose of opening a gambling establishment without approval of a state's governor, though he withdrew the amendment because Senator John McCain, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, agreed to hold a hearing on the proposal.

Senator Voinovich – who subsequently testified before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee regarding this issue – also introduced legislation to amend IGRA, requiring that casino-style gambling on Indian lands be allowed only in states that permit such gambling in their constitutions. The legislation was referred to the Indian Affairs Committee and has been co-sponsored by Senator Mike DeWine.

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Senator Voinovich has been committed to securing the future of nuclear enrichment in Piketon since the privatization of USEC, the world's leading supplier of enriched uranium fuel for commercial nuclear power plants, in 1998. The culmination of these efforts occurred in December 2002 with USEC's announcement of Portsmouth as the location for its lead cascade demonstration project, where it will demonstrate enhancements to the Department of Energy's already proven centrifuge uranium enrichment technology. This facility will begin operations in 2006. The American Centrifuge in Piketon employs approximately 100 people.

Also, in January 2004, USEC announced that they will site an approximately \$1.5 billion commercial gas centrifuge plant in Portsmouth. Hundreds of construction jobs will be created over the next decade, and once the plant is operational, it will employ approximately 500 highly skilled workers.

In 2005, Senator Voinovich fought to ensure that the *Energy and Water Conference Report* fully funded the Portsmouth cleanup, omitting the potential cut of \$17 million. He sent letters to conferees and to U.S. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman on the topic. As a result, the \$17 million was not cut, and the full \$192.2 million was received in the conference report.

Passage of the Highway Bill

As a "just in time" state – a state that does not store large inventories and therefore relies on timely deliveries to keep operations going – Ohio depends on its highway infrastructure, and delays negatively affect the economy. Since Ohio lies midway between Chicago and the East Coast, it is a national crossroads for the distribution of manufacturing goods, automotive production, agricultural commodities and international trade. Senator Voinovich knows that it is vital to invest in our state's transportation infrastructure, and he joined 88 of his colleagues in voting in support of the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005* (SAFETEA). In fact, the senator played a key role in securing funding for Ohio as a senior member of the Environment and Public Works Committee and as a conferee on the SAFETEA conference committee. The senator's work to ensure that states like Ohio do not get penalized for their use of ethanol resulted in an increased rate of return on Ohio's gas tax money from 90.5 to 92 percent.

This highway reauthorization bill creates thousands of jobs. The bill, which was signed into law by the President in August, was the result of a long, bipartisan process. It was based on more than three

years of work, over a dozen hearings, testimony from more than 100 witnesses, and countless hours of negotiation. The bill was supported by a deep and broad coalition – from state and local highway authorities to national safety advocates.

Ohio Highway Facts:

- 2ND largest inventory of bridges;
- 4TH largest interstate highway network;
- 4TH largest rural transit program;
- 5TH highest volume of traffic;
- 5TH largest bus fleet;
- 7TH largest highway network;
- 9TH most transit vehicle miles traveled; and
- 10TH highest overall ridership in the nation.

For Ohio, SAFETEA:

- Creates more than 20,000 highway-related jobs over the life of the bill;
- Provides \$6.646 billion over five years for highways – which is a 36 percent increase in funding over the last transportation bill (total funding for Ohio roads would be \$400 million less without the changes that Senator Voinovich pushed for last Congress to have states like Ohio not penalized for their use of ethanol);
- Increases Ohio’s rate of return from 90.5 to 92 cents of every gas tax dollar collected in Ohio and sent to Washington; and
- Provides \$859.353 million over five years for transit – which is a 29 percent increase over the last transportation bill.

Northeast Ohio highway programs supported by Senator Voinovich:

Cuyahoga County

- \$106.97 million for reconstruction of Cleveland Innerbelt and rehabilitation of the Central Viaduct Bridge (Cleveland);
- \$5.012 million for the pedestrian bridge lakefront development project in the Cleveland downtown waterfront area (Cleveland);
- \$5 million for the Flats East Bank roadway improvements and riverwalk (Cleveland);
- \$6.44 million for the Ohio and Erie Canalway Towpath Trail (Cleveland);
- \$1.8 million to reconstruct and widen SR-82 (North Royalton);
- \$1.3 million to construct a connector between Crocker and Stearns County highways (North Olmstead);
- \$1 million to establish a Trans-Erie Ferry line from Cleveland, Ohio, to Port Stanley, Ontario (Cleveland); and
- Authorization of the Euclid Corridor Transportation Project (Cleveland).

Lake County

- \$2.4 million to construct a four-way interchange at SR-44/Shamrock Boulevard (Painesville).

Summit County

- \$7 million for the construction of a downtown multi-modal transportation center in Akron (Akron);
- \$5.6 million for the SR-8 safety improvement and road expansion project in Northern Summit County (Akron); and
- \$4 million for construction of an interchange at SR-8 and Season Road (Hudson/Stow).

Northwest Ohio highway programs supported by Senator Voinovich:

Lucas County

- \$2 million for rehabilitation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge (Toledo); and
- \$7.4 million for reconstruction of the I-75/I-475 Interchange (Toledo).

Southeast Ohio highway programs supported by Senator Voinovich:

Pike County

- \$6.6 million to the South Connector in Waverly from US-23 to SR-104 to SR-220 for development in depressed Appalachian region (Waverly).

ARC Funding

- \$102.6 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission Highways.

Southwest Ohio Highway and Transit programs supported by Senator Voinovich:

Montgomery County

- \$7.5 million to construct an interchange on I-75 at Austin Road and Miamisburg-Springboro Road and to widen Miamisburg-Springboro Road from Wood Road to SR-741 (Dayton);
- \$5 million for reconstruction, widening and interchange upgrades to I-75 between Cincinnati and Dayton (Cincinnati and Dayton);
- \$4 million to widen US-35 to three contiguous lanes from I-75 to I-675 in Montgomery County (Dayton); and
- \$2 million for Downtown Dayton Transit Center (Dayton).

Greene County

- \$3 million to eliminate signalized intersections between North Fairfield Road and the Xenia Bypass on US-35 in Greene County (Xenia).

Hamilton County

- \$10 million for the Brent Spence Bridge (Cincinnati);
- \$16.5 million to replace the Edward N. Waldvogel Viaduct (Cincinnati); and
- \$2.5 million for the Southwest Ohio RTA Uptown Crossings Transit Project, a park and ride bus facility.

Warren County

- \$2 million to construct the I-75/SR-122 interchange at Middletown Regional Hospital (Middletown).

Central Ohio Highway programs supported by Senators DeWine and Voinovich:

Franklin County

- \$30.4 million for the Rickenbacker Airport Intermodal Facility (Columbus);
- \$10.5 million for the construction of new bridges in downtown Columbus (Columbus);
- \$14.4 million for the reconstruction of the I-70/71 split in downtown Columbus (Columbus); and
- \$2 million for Central Ohio Transit Authority's Paratransit and Small Bus Service Facility (Columbus).

Amendments included in Highway Conference Report:

School Bus Retrofits (Clean School Bus)

- This amendment authorizes an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program to provide grants to replace or retrofit school buses to reduce harmful emissions and improve air quality.

School Bus Drivers

- This amendment saves the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) \$2 million because school bus drivers with experience prior to September 30, 2002, will not have to take an additional written knowledge test since the approved Ohio test already meets the new federal standards. ODE will maintain the same safety standards for school bus drivers without spending \$2 million to retest drivers.

Bridges

- This amendment increases the federal match for the highway bridge program from 80 percent to 90 percent, if the bridge is on the interstate system.

University Transportation Centers

- This amendment designates the Ohio Higher Education Transportation Consortium (OHETC) as a University Transportation Center (UTC) in Ohio. The UTC will be designated at the University of Akron in cooperation with Case Western Reserve University, Central State University, University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, Kent State University, Ohio University, The Ohio State University, and Youngstown State University. The OHETC will focus on conducting applied research, providing quality education to future transportation professionals, and disseminating state-of-the-art knowledge and technology for implementation in current and future transportation systems.
- This amendment designates the University of Toledo as a University Transportation Center (UTC) in Ohio. The University of Toledo will be working in partnership with the University of Detroit Mercy, Grand Valley State University, Wayne State University, and Bowling Green State University. The purpose of the UTC will be to develop technology-enabled intermodal transportation systems and supply chains that promote economic development and quality of life.

Better Utilizing Defense Resources: Base Realignment and Closure Process

To best meet the defense needs of the nation, Senator Voinovich understands the importance of realigning and streamlining the nation's defense infrastructure to best utilize the nation's defense resources. The consolidation and closing of bases follows the Department of Defense's extensive examination of military installations and specific criteria for selecting bases that would be realigned and closed. The Pentagon reports that it exceeds required spending by roughly 20 percent annually in order to support outdated infrastructure. The Pentagon estimates that savings from BRAC 2005 could generate approximately \$7 billion in annual recurring savings in today's dollars. Resources currently being spent on excess installation infrastructure could be allocated to higher priority requirements, such as efforts to modernize weapons, enhance quality of life, and improve readiness.

Senator Voinovich believes every Ohio base can justify its existence on its merits, and in 2005 he worked with his colleagues in Congress, local government officials and the private sector to keep these bases open throughout the BRAC process. Due to his efforts, Ohio fared well, standing to gain approximately 1,600 jobs after the BRAC Commission's recommendations are implemented.

- **Air Force Institute of Technology** – The Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), housed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, represents the leading edge of training for the next generation of our military leaders. It is one of the best facilities of its type in the country, and Senator Voinovich advocated aggressively to keep it in Dayton and protect it from consolidation with facilities in Monterey, California. Senator Voinovich testified at the BRAC Regional Hearing in Buffalo, New York, on June 27, 2005, and sent two letters to the BRAC Commission: one personal letter regarding his history of helping AFIT and one joint letter with Senator Mike DeWine. He also participated in the BRAC Commission's site visit to AFIT in August 2005, after AFIT was added to the BRAC list for review by the Commission. Senator Voinovich was pleased that the Commissioners ultimately decided to keep AFIT at Wright-Patterson. Had AFIT been

consolidated, Dayton would have lost 500 military and civilian jobs and more than 1,000 students who attend the school annually.

- **Development Fielding and Systems Group** – The Development Fielding and Systems Group (DFSG), based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, provides responsive information systems to support more efficient and effective logistics, contracting and computer capabilities Air Force-wide, and provides life cycle management for standard information systems. It administers contracts valued at \$1.5 billion and employs 755 military, civilian and contractor employees. The BRAC Commission considered moving DFSG to Hanscom Air Force Base in Boston; thankfully, Senator Voinovich and the Ohio delegation were able to prove that DFSG belonged at Wright-Patterson. Senators DeWine and Voinovich wrote a letter to the BRAC Commission, urging them to keep DFSG in Dayton with the argument that moving DFSG would not improve efficiency and synergy, but would actually damage it. Along with Representative Dave Hobson, they met twice with the Air Force to reinforce their support for the BRAC Commission's final decision and their expectation that it will be enforced and DFSG will not be moved. As a result, at least 2,250 jobs – and as many as 4,817 jobs – were saved.

Keeping AFIT and DFSG at Wright-Patterson is a huge win for economic development and job creation in the Dayton area. The other critical components and new mission jobs that will be moved to Wright Patterson Air Force Base will make the base stronger. Wright-Patt alone will see a net gain of 494 jobs, and Dayton will see a net gain of at least 2,730 new jobs. An additional 1,305 spin-off jobs will also result from increased economic activity in the area. The final numbers on total job gains may take some more time to sort out, and Dayton will probably gain many more in the long run – a major victory.

- **Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Cleveland** – The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Cleveland, employing more than 1,200 people in Northeast Ohio, has served as a leading model of operational efficiency and customer service for U.S. military pay operations around the world and has operated as the world center for Navy pay operations and personnel data management since the advent of DFAS. Further, due to the exceptional performance of this team, DFAS Cleveland was named the Reserve Pay Center of Excellence. It will gain several functions as a result of the BRAC process and will be covering Vendor Pay, Navy and Marine Corps Pay, Navy Accounting, Disbursing, and Civilian Pay. The highly experienced men and women who work in this facility are an integral part of the system that supports the armed forces. Realigning DFAS would have had a devastatingly negative impact on the economy of Cleveland, but Senator Voinovich and the Ohio delegation presented strong arguments for keeping DFAS Cleveland open. Not only will Cleveland retain the jobs it has now, but there will be 500 new jobs coming. These will be high-paying accounting and other jobs – a great boost for the Cleveland community.
- **Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Columbus** – The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Columbus is the home of the Commercial Pay Services Business Line (CPBL) and Accounting Services, Defense Agencies. Taken together, the CPBL and elements of Corporate Resources and Travel Pay are responsible for contractor and vendor payments of more than \$228 billion annually; accounting services, such as the Chief Financial Officer statement, as well as DFAS and Treasury reports for Defense Agencies; local and remote personnel and resource management; and processing some 251,000 travel payments totaling more than \$179 million for permanent change of station (PCS) and temporary duty (TDY) assignments. The BRAC Commission's decision to keep DFAS Columbus off the base realignment and closure list was a tremendous victory for the people of Columbus and for Ohio. The site will retain its current jobs and gain up to 800 new jobs. Senator Voinovich worked with the Ohio delegation and DFAS Director Zack Gaddy to ensure that the BRAC Commission had the best information available to them.

- **Mansfield-Lahm Air Guard Station and Springfield Air Guard Station** – During BRAC 2005, Senator Voinovich worked closely with the Ohio delegation and the Ohio National Guard to keep the Mansfield Air Guard Station and the Springfield Air Guard Station open. Both Mansfield and Springfield were designated as “enclaves” under the 2005 BRAC decisions, meaning they have the opportunity to gain new missions that will have a long-term benefit for the community in years to come. The senator believes strongly that it is important to protect the flying capabilities at each base; he will continue to collaborate closely with the communities and the Air National Guard on the future of the bases. Senator Voinovich signed on to a letter to the BRAC Commission and the Senate Armed Services Committee requesting that the Commission take a closer look at the Air Force BRAC recommendation on the Air National Guard. He also sent a letter on December 12, 2005, to Lieutenant General H. Stephen Blum encouraging him to maintain an airlift mission at the Mansfield-Lahm Air Guard Station. The letter asked General Blum to reconsider the BRAC Commission’s decision to remove the aircraft and to examine ways to bring future airlift missions to the station. In 2005, the Ohio National Guard served our country in many combat operations and at home, playing an invaluable role following Hurricane Katrina.
- **Toledo Express Airport** – The 180th Fighter Wing (FW) of the Ohio Air National Guard occupies 135.4 acres of leased land on the Toledo Express Airport (ANG), located approximately 22 miles west of Toledo, Ohio. The mission of the 180th FW is to provide combat-ready F16C and support units capable of deploying worldwide in minimum response time. The 180th FW occupies three administrative, 13 industrial, and seven services buildings totaling approximately 321,882 square feet with 290 full-time personnel. A unit training drill is conducted once a month and results in a surge of up to a total of 900 personnel. In the final recommendation, the Commission decided to keep Toledo open and add three F16s to the fifteen that were already stationed there. Senator Voinovich worked with the Ohio delegation to ensure that the BRAC Commission had the best information available to them so that the final recommendations would be based on sound analysis and accurate data.
- **Youngstown Warren Regional Airport** – In the BRAC Commission recommendation, the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport received a gain recommendation of eight civilian jobs. The senator was pleased that Youngstown-Warren was among those installations selected to gain jobs. He was impressed with the facilities at Youngstown when he visited on March 7, 2005.

Helping Ohio’s Storm Recovery

Following the devastating storms that tore through Ohio in December 2004, Senator Voinovich supported a request to President Bush that he declare a major disaster for the state of Ohio. The winter storms, which produced heavy snowfall, freezing rain, ice, sleet, high wind conditions, bitter cold temperatures, severe storms and flooding, caused:

- An estimated \$127.5 million to local public infrastructure, including costs of emergency protective measures and repairs to rural electrical cooperatives;
- more than \$123 million in insured losses classified as catastrophic; and
- an estimated \$18 million in federal disaster assistance for individuals.

It was determined that the severity and magnitude of this incident was beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, which prompted the request for emergency assistance for snow removal. Senator Voinovich wrote a letter of support encouraging the President to grant this request for emergency assistance. On January 11, 2005, the President granted the request and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area. Assistance was made available on a cost-sharing basis for emergency protective measures that were undertaken to save lives and protect public health, safety and property.

Opening an Immigration Court in Ohio

Currently, Ohio is one of 27 states that does not have its own Immigration Court, and of all these states, Ohio has the largest amount of pending cases – approximately 3,000 backlogged cases. In fact, Ohio has more open cases than 12 states which do have their own Immigration Courts. Senator Voinovich requested an Immigration Court in a letter he co-signed with Senator Mike DeWine to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, and in 2005, he was pleased to announce that a court will be opened in Ohio likely in late summer of 2006.

Until then, Ohio's cases will continue to be heard via video and teleconferencing technology by the Immigration Court in Virginia. The establishment of a court in Ohio will give judges the opportunity to have the petitioner before them in person, which will enable them to better assess the petitioner's reliability, and will greatly streamline and speed the process in Ohio's immigration courts.

Comments and Quotes on the Nelsonville Office

"Athens County residents don't have far to travel if they want to have a face-to-face meeting with a representative of U.S. Senator George Voinovich. The Senator has relocated his Southeastern Ohio office from Gallipolis to Nelsonville. The new location is more centralized to the region..."

News Article, *Voinovich Brings Region's Office to Athens County*, Athens Messenger, December 7, 2005

Comments and Quotes on NASA Glenn

"The bill includes a provision to bring high-paying aerospace jobs to Ohio by requiring NASA and the Department of Energy to collaborate on research and development efforts to increase jet engine fuel efficiency by 10 percent by 2010. With Voinovich's amendment, jobs could be promoted to the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland as well as the General Electric jet engine plant in Evendale."

News Article, *Voinovich Touts Clean Air Plan*, Dayton Daily News, July 9, 2005

Comments and Quotes on Casino/Indian Gambling

"Ohio voters rejected legalized gambling in 1990 and 1996, but Senator Voinovich correctly pointed out that pre-emptive action is necessary against the gambling industry and what he called its 'well-meaning' allies at the local and state levels who see wagering revenue as a savior in the current hard economic times."

Editorial, *No to Gambling, Again*, Toledo Blade, March 25, 2005

"Voinovich zeroed in on gambling for what it really is, a zero-sum game. For all the talk of new jobs for blackjack dealers, cocktail waitresses and others, the local economy only has so many entertainment dollars. Voinovich correctly pointed out that existing restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues, even retail businesses, would suffer as dollars are diverted."

Editorial, *Unsafe Bet: The Casino Crowd Tries Again to Sell Ohioans on a Lousy Investment*, Akron Beacon Journal, March 24, 2005

"Gambling is a parasitic industry that spreads like cancer...Congress should heed Voinovich and Vitter and impose stricter controls on Indian casinos."

Editorial, *Up the Ante: More Controls Needed to Slow the Spread of Indian Casinos*, Columbus Dispatch, July 31, 2005

“Flanked by an array of other high-powered gambling opponents at a Tuesday news conference, U.S. Sen. George Voinovich vowed to keep casino interests out of the state as he has helped do twice in the last decade. He said the new bill would clarify a point of law that otherwise might allow tribes eager to establish casinos to do so even though the state’s constitution prohibits it. ‘It looks to be like getting Indian gaming in Ohio is very, very remote,’ Voinovich said. ‘What we’re doing is we’re just adding a couple of more nails to the coffin.’”

News Article, *A Few More Nails in Casino Coffins*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, August 31, 2005

Comments and Quotes on the Highway Bill

“Senator George Voinovich says the big transformation Congress just passed is the best ever for the state of Ohio. Certainly it contains loads of cash for important projects around the state. But four earmarks bode especially well for the future of Cleveland’s waterfronts – if local officials are smart enough to leverage those federal dollars by cooperating and by inviting lots of creative people to the table.”

News Article, *Piecemeal won’t cut it: City and port officials must join forces on the waterfront to make projects for Docks 28 and 32 into one grand plan*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, August 9, 2005

“Three key Cleveland waterfront developments and a new Inner Belt bridge over the Cuyahoga River valley received major boosts Friday with passage of a federal transportation bill... Senator George Voinovich, Republican of Ohio, who worked on the Senate-House conference committee that ironed out final details, said it was ‘the best transportation bill that we’ve ever had for the state of Ohio.’”

News Article, *Key Cleveland projects win OK*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, July 30, 2005

Fiscal Responsibility

I don't know how anyone can say with a straight face that when we voted to cut spending last week to help deficit reduction, we can now then turn around two weeks later to provide tax cuts that exceed those reductions.

-Senator George V. Voinovich, Newsweek, November 21, 2005

Reducing the Deficit

As a former mayor and governor, Senator Voinovich understands the importance of making difficult decisions when necessary. Congress must remember that all the choices it makes right now are being measured against a backdrop of ever-increasing deficits, Medicare costs, disaster relief funding and the cost of the war against terrorism. The nation cannot continue to spend uncontrollably and reduce revenue under the assumption that our children and grandchildren will pay for it tomorrow.

The fiscal year 2005 budget deficit was \$317 billion – the third largest deficit in our nation's history, with the first and second largest deficits occurring in 2004 and 2003. On October 20, 2005, the gross federal debt climbed past \$8 trillion. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), in 2005 interest on the public debt grew more rapidly than any other major spending category, rising 14 percent above the FY2004 level.

The *2006 Budget Reconciliation Bill* includes a savings of \$39.1 billion over a five-year period. This is the first time since 1997 that Congress has used the reconciliation process to reduce mandatory spending. Although difficult decisions on funding cuts were made, the bill still provides additional funding to many vital programs through offsets. These savings – pursuant to the budget resolution for fiscal year 2006 and adjusted following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita – have three principal goals: 1) To provide a down-payment toward hurricane recovery and reconstruction costs. Congress already has provided nearly \$65 billion in recovery funding, and more funding is expected in the near future; 2) To begin a longer-term effort at slowing the growth of entitlement spending, which now consumes about 54 percent of the total budget, and will rise to 62 percent in 10 years if no action is taken; and 3) To stimulate reform of entitlement programs, many of which are outdated, inefficient and excessively costly.

Provisions authored by Senator Voinovich, which were included in the budget resolution, include five-year caps on discretionary spending and the requirement that any spending that exceeds these caps be offset by reductions in spending elsewhere in the budget or increases in revenue. Waiving the caps would require a supermajority of 60 votes to pass.

A Vision for the Future: Truth in Budgeting

All taxpayers have the right to expect that the money they pay into the Social Security trust fund will be protected and used only to pay for legitimate Social Security benefits. It is time for the federal government to stop borrowing from Social Security. Senator Voinovich's *Truth in Budgeting Act of 2005* will guarantee that any trust fund revenues collected for a special purpose, including Social Security funds, will be securely locked away and not lent out for other purposes.

This includes borrowing from trust funds to balance the federal budget. Congress has not only raided the Social Security trust fund to the tune of \$1.9 trillion, they have also borrowed over \$695 billion from the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund, \$196 billion from the Military Retirement Fund and smaller amounts from almost 130 other federal trust funds. In all, they have borrowed just over \$3.5 trillion worth of funds intended for other purposes.

When the President, Congress and the public are forced to recognize the true cost of federal borrowing, they will be forced to exercise more fiscal restraint. In order to balance the budget without borrowing from trust funds, Congress will be forced to cut spending, raise taxes or borrow from the private sector.

Protecting Social Security Surviving Spouse Benefits

Senator Voinovich was an original co-sponsor of the *Government Pension Offset Reform Act*, which fixes a penalty on government retirees who are eligible for a Social Security surviving spouse benefit. Under current law, a Social Security spousal benefit is reduced or completely eliminated if the surviving spouse receives a pension based on a local, state or federal government job that was not covered by Social Security.

Nearly 390,400 Americans are affected by the current offset rules, including more than 53,818 Ohioans. The national number grows by nearly 20,000 retirees each year. Almost 60 percent of the survivors affected by this law are women. Women are more likely to receive Social Security spousal benefits and to have worked in low-paying or short-term government positions while they were raising families. This modification will allow these women who have contributed years of government and family service to rely on a larger amount of retirement income.

Reforming Federal Taxes: Blue Ribbon Tax Commission

The senator believes in creating a tax code that is fair, simple, and honest. Reform would help eliminate redundancy, encourage voluntary compliance, lower administrative and compliance costs, and increase the predictability and transparency of the tax laws.

During the debate on the *American Jobs Creation Act of 2004*, Senator Voinovich introduced an amendment – included in the Senate version of the bill – that would have created a bipartisan Tax Reform Commission to examine all aspects of the tax code. While the commission was not included in the final version of the act, Senator Voinovich was pleased when President Bush announced in September 2004 that he would establish a bipartisan advisory panel devoted to tax reform.

When the President traveled to Ohio in 2005, he recognized Senator Voinovich's efforts to push for a tax reform panel. On November 1, the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform released a tax proposal. The senator looks forward to the Administration's response to the findings and recommendations.

Comments and Quotes on Fiscal Responsibility

"Flap, flap, flap, flap, flap, flap. That's George V. Voinovich, Republican of Ohio, gaining altitude in what for him has become an occasional appearance as a member of that rare and unprotected species in the United States Senate, the deficit hawk. ... Self-styled 'deficit hawks' such as George Voinovich may be the last best hope to stop the administration's fateful rush toward fiscal suicide."

Editorial, *The "Hawk" Flies Again*, Toledo Blade, February 17, 2005

"Voinovich, famously frugal in his personal life, genuinely believes that governments should live within their means. As mayor he helped bring a bankrupt Cleveland back to fiscal health, and as governor he guided Ohio safely through a nasty recession. A political pragmatist, he relied in both instances on spending cuts as well as tax hikes to bring budgets into balance while providing necessary services to his constituents."

Editorial, *Taming the Tiger*, Cincinnati Post, February 11, 2005

"Without responsible fiscal stewardship, the gathering storm clouds of debt and deficits darken even more," Voinovich warned. He's right. If the Senate and House cannot reach a budget agreement – as they have been unable to do for the past two years – there will be no real legal limit on what non-existent dollars they can, and will, spend."

Editorial, *The Fiscal Follies*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, March 21, 2005

“These days a Republican such as Ohio Sen. George Voinovich is branded as a ‘maverick’ for standing up and saying out loud that with deficits this high we shouldn’t make President Bush’s tax cuts permanent and that Congress should find ways to cut spending to make up for what it is spending on the Gulf Coast.” Editorial, *An immodest proposal*, Cincinnati Post, September 22, 2005

“‘We’ve got to get real,’ Republican Senator George V. Voinovich of Ohio said last week, imploring fellow lawmakers to reconsider federal spending and tax-cut priorities as yet another hurricane bore down on the battered Gulf Coast. Voinovich was saying publicly – in the cranky-maverick role he relishes – what a number of Republicans, the party in control of congress, are beginning to concede privately.” News Article, *Mood Seems to be Against Renewing All Tax Cuts*, Columbus Dispatch, September 25, 2005

“Voinovich knows how to reduce spending. He had practical experience as governor. His exasperation represents an uncommon expression of honesty, the senator making plain that if the country insists on its current spending practices (out of pleasure or necessity), it must confront the obligation to raise enough revenue... The ethic that Voinovich has in mind is true fiscal conservatism, not wishful thinking or tough words about spending reductions tomorrow, or the next day.” Editorial, *George Voinovich gets real: the Senator has another fit of fiscal honesty*, Akron Beacon Journal, September 25, 2005

“Like it or not, Ohio Sen. George Voinovich is right when he argues that President Bush can’t have it both ways with the budget. The president cannot credibly promise to bring the budget back into balance and at the same time hand out fat tax breaks, launch a costly new prescription drug program and fight a \$1 billion-a-week war. Conservative supply-side theory might hold that cutting tax rates will ultimately produce more money for the treasury, but if that were true Washington would be wallowing in a surplus today instead of staring at the worst deficit in the nation’s history.” Editorial, *Taming the Tiger*, Cincinnati Post, February 11, 2005

“Senator Voinovich says tax cuts are not necessary this year, because the economy has improved. He also says the tax cuts being looked at this year favor the well-off, rather than the middle class and the struggling. Meanwhile, the deficit is still here and still enormous.” Editorial, *Voinovich, “Pay-Go” Obviously Right*, Dayton Daily News, March 19, 2005

“Five brave Senate Republicans – George Voinovich, John McCain, Olympia Snowe, Susan Collins and Lincoln Chafee – bucked their party on Wednesday to vote for budget rules that would have required any new tax cuts be paid for with savings elsewhere in the budget.” Editorial, *Destined for Deficits*, Washington Post, March 18, 2005

“Putting Social Security’s excess cash in a lockbox makes perfect sense to Americans who are counting on this program to help pay for their retirement. Sen. George V. Voinovich proposed legislation to block the federal government from raiding the annual surplus, a practice he says conceals the mammoth size of the budget deficit.” Editorial, *Fix Social Security: Congress Should Face Up to its Responsibility to Shore Up Program*, Columbus Dispatch, September 29, 2005

National Security

Today [election day in Iraq] is a day of celebration and commemoration of the good things that are being accomplished in Iraq and the good things to come. We should be proud of what we have accomplished and use this day to reflect on the work that remains. The work that is being done in Iraq will benefit the people of Iraq, the greater Middle East, and our own country for generations to come. It is clear that Iraq is determining its own future, but we must continue to stand with the people of Iraq for as long as they need us.

-Senator George V. Voinovich, statement, December 15, 2005

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Senator Voinovich joined the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January 2003. The senator has long been a supporter of Ohio's ethnic communities, seeking to advocate policies and projects to celebrate and honor the rich and diverse cultures that make up our nation. The senator is an active participant on the Committee, and has acted as a leader on several international issues, including his work to promote a lasting peace and stability in Southeast Europe, strengthen and enlarge the NATO Alliance, reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, advance U.N. reform, strengthen U.S. public diplomacy, and combat global anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance. His membership on the Committee has given him a strong platform to champion these important issues. He has also been actively involved in the Committee's work to analyze the war on terrorism, including efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and progress on reconstruction.

War on Terror

Senator Voinovich is committed to advancing the security of the United States and ensuring that our children and grandchildren will live in a world of peace and an America free from terror. He believes that the war on terror is nothing less than the 4th World War, a fight against Islamic extremists and religious fanatics who have convinced too many Muslims that the way to heaven is through a jihad against the United States and those who share our values. In an attempt to build a new empire, these terrorists are attempting to take over not only Iraq, but all of the Middle East. The United States must not allow Iraq or any other nation to become a haven for terrorists, whose objective is to spread fear, resentment, despair and violence – among their own people, fellow countrymen and abroad.

Victory in Iraq

Despite mounting criticism of U.S. involvement in Iraq, 2005 was a year of significant progress. On January 30, Iraq held multi-party elections for the first time since 1953. The turnout has been estimated to be roughly 60 percent, or eight million, of Iraq's registered voters. The Iraqi elections paved the way for a 275-member Transitional National Assembly (TNA) to serve as Iraq's national legislature for a transition period until a national government was elected on December 15. An estimated 70 percent of registered voters turned out for the December 15 election.

The elections, as well as the constitutional referendum on October 15, 2005, marked a major turning point in Iraq's transition to a democratic and representative government. However, it is clear that significant challenges remain in Iraq as the United States works with the Iraqi government and the international community to promote security and the reconstruction efforts. Although Coalition Forces remain persistent in working to rebuild, stabilize, and secure Iraq, the ongoing violence presents real challenges to the Coalition's efforts. Even though Iraq is now a sovereign nation, violence is likely to continue.

Senator Voinovich remains committed to the belief that the American people must fully understand that winning the conflict in Iraq is critical to bringing stability to the Middle East. He has urged both President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to be very clear about the objectives in Iraq, and to put Operation Iraqi Freedom in the proper perspective so that Americans and people across the world can understand how important this struggle truly is. In a Foreign Relations Committee hearing, the senator told Secretary Rice, "I think it's really important that you continue to level with the American people about how important it is that we're successful in Iraq and that if we're not successful in Iraq, that that will spill over to the entire area in the Middle East." The senator believes this information is critical to sustaining the commitment of the population to a worthy cause that can bring stability and peace to Iraq and extend to the Middle East. As such, Senator Voinovich remains committed to the belief that America's troops should remain in Iraq until the job is done.

Senator Voinovich voted to support continued funding for U.S. operations and reconstruction in Iraq as part of S. 1042, the *National Defense Authorization Act* for fiscal year 2006. An amendment to S. 1042, also supported by Senator Voinovich, instructs the Administration to provide an unclassified document to Congress and to the American people detailing the current military mission in Iraq and the diplomatic, political, economic and military measures being taken to complete that mission. This report will be provided 90 days after the enactment of the defense authorization and every three months after the initial report. The amendment was approved in the Senate by a vote of 79 to 19. In November 2005, the Administration responded to this amendment by providing Congress with an unclassified document titled, "National Strategy for Victory in Iraq."

While, Senator Voinovich fully supported legislation to fund operations and reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, he repeatedly called on the Administration to seek more financial and other support from donor nations and international organizations.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Voinovich is actively involved in U.S. policy on Iraq and has attended a number of hearings and secure briefings from the Pentagon, National Security Council and State Department.

Supporting Israel, Combating Anti-Semitism

Senator Voinovich is dedicated to doing what he can in the Senate to call attention to the rising problem of anti-Semitism and combat it at home and abroad. Senator Voinovich continued his strong support for Israel and for foreign aid for the Jewish state in the appropriations process. In 2005, he supported the *2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill*, which included a strong package of aid for Israel. He called on the President to move cautiously with efforts to implement the Road Map to Peace and to base progress toward creating a Palestinian state on progress and actions in ensuring Israeli security, not artificial timelines. The senator speaks regularly with the State Department regarding the creation of an Office to Combat Global Anti-Semitism, per the senator's 2004 legislation, the *Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004*. Senator Voinovich is disappointed that the State Department has not yet appointed a Special Envoy to head the office and lead efforts to monitor acts of anti-Semitism globally. He continues to urge the State Department to move forward soon with the appointment and the establishment of the office. In 2005, the senator also took the following actions to combat anti-Semitism:

- **Honoring Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin** – Senator Voinovich was an original sponsor of Senate Resolution 310, which honors the life of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The resolution recognizes the ten-year anniversary of Prime Minister Rabin's tragic assassination on November 4, 1995, and calls for continued support of his dream to advance peace in the Middle East. The resolution specifically honors the distinguished service of Prime Minister Rabin to the people of Israel and extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Yitzhak Rabin and the people of Israel.

- **Recognizing the Life of Simon Wiesenthal** – Senator Voinovich was an original co-sponsor of a resolution recognizing the life and accomplishments of Holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal, who dedicated his life to ensuring that the crimes committed during the Holocaust would not be forgotten. The senator believes the best way to keep Mr. Wiesenthal’s memory alive is to make sure the world never forgets the Holocaust and to do all in its power to kill the sickness that gave rise to anti-Semitism. The resolution passed by Unanimous Consent on September 21, 2005.
- **Celebrating the Opening of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage** – In October, Senator Voinovich was asked to speak at the opening of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Cleveland. The museum illustrates the struggle Jewish immigrants faced when coming to America and how they were able to overcome significant obstacles and take advantage of the great opportunity the United States provides for those who work hard to make a better life for themselves and their children. Cleveland in particular has been greatly enriched by the Jewish community, and the senator expressed his great appreciation for their contributions to the economy, education, health services, and the arts and civic leadership. He also stressed the importance of celebrating our respective heritages and remembering the struggles of the generations who have preceded us.
- **Urging Action Against Anti-Semitism by the United Nations** – If the U.N. is to be a promoter of democracy and human rights worldwide, it must work to protect the rights of all. Senator Voinovich was an original co-sponsor of a resolution urging action by the United Nations (U.N.) to curb the anti-Semitic bias of some U.N. member states. The resolution coincided with the U.N. World Summit held in New York in September 2005. The resolution, which passed by Unanimous Consent on September 15, acknowledges recent attempts by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to address the issue of anti-Semitism. It also calls on the leadership of the U.N. to officially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements made at all United Nations meetings and hold accountable the U.N. member states that make such statements. Finally, the resolution strongly urges the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to develop and implement education awareness programs about the Holocaust throughout the world as part of an effort to combat the rise in anti-Semitism and racial, religious and ethnic intolerance.

Public Diplomacy and the United Nations

Public diplomacy seeks to promote the national interest of the United States through understanding, informing and influencing foreign audiences and broadening dialogue between American citizens and institutions and their counterparts abroad.

In order to reduce the degree to which misperceptions and misunderstanding complicate relations between the U.S. and other nations, it is important to have a body to effectively foster unity and global cooperation. For over 60 years, the United Nations (U.N.) has been charged with this mission. As a means to help resolve international conflicts and formulate policies, the U.N. plays an increasingly important role in U.S. foreign relations.

However, in recent years, the U.N. has not met its potential. Senator Voinovich believes that U.N. reform must be pursued aggressively, which will send a strong message that corruption, mismanagement and poor performance will not be tolerated in the U.N. Toward this end, he signed on as a co-sponsor of S. 1383, the *United Nations Management, Personnel, and Policy Reform Act of 2005*.

S. 1383 was introduced on July 12, 2005, by Senator Norm Coleman. The bill calls for the establishment of an independent oversight board to analyze the internal workings of the U.N. and to recommend ways in which the institution can be strengthened. S. 1383 would also allow the President to withhold 50 percent of U.S. contributions to the U.N. in a year if the President has determined the U.N is not making sufficient progress to implement the reforms described in the bill.

The global war on terror raises the stakes in public diplomacy. As stated in the 9/11 Commission Report summary, “Public diplomacy tools are as important in the war on terrorism as military tools.” In a post-9/11 era, the relationships the United States maintains with foreign countries are vital to success in eradicating terrorism. Negative opinions about the United States have increased internationally, in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries, as well as amongst traditional allies and emerging friends. For this reason, the U.S. Permanent Representative to the U.N. must have the leadership and diplomatic skills to properly represent our country’s interests in the international arena.

Senator Voinovich was disappointed in the recess appointment of John Bolton to be Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He believes that at this critical time, when U.S. credibility is being called into question and our security is being threatened, the U.S. should not send an representative to the U.N. who lacks the credibility to be effective. He believes this lack of credibility will bring unnecessary baggage to Bolton’s tenure at the U.N. and undermine his effectiveness as a diplomat. Nevertheless, Senator Voinovich wants to ensure that Ambassador Bolton has all the resources necessary to successfully carry out his duties and continues to regularly consult with him on his responsibilities.

The senator was pleased that the Administration has recognized the importance of this issue by appointing Karen Hughes to be the Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy. Senator Voinovich participated in Karen Hughes’ confirmation process in 2005 and has been in close touch with the Undersecretary’s office since her appointment. He hopes that the Administration will continue to work to improve U.S. public diplomacy, including with efforts to strengthen and better coordinate the many different programs on public diplomacy in the U.S. government.

Strengthening the Alliance: Helping Extend NATO Membership

In 2005, Senator Voinovich continued his active involvement in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and his work to promote NATO enlargement. He attended two NATO Parliamentary Assembly meetings in which NATO’s future and plans for enlargement were discussed and recommendations were made to NATO’s ministers. The senator continued support of NATO expansion, including support for future expansion to the countries of Southeast Europe. During his conversations with senior leaders in Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro, Senator Voinovich stressed that NATO membership would not come without the arrest of specified war criminals and their delivery to The Hague. In December 2005, Croatia’s outstanding war criminal, Ante Gotovina, was arrested.

Visit to Slovenia and Croatia

Recognizing that stability in Southeast Europe can influence the overall peace and stability of the broader region, Senator Voinovich has become one of the Senate’s leading experts on Southeast European affairs. In May 2005, he traveled to Croatia and Slovenia where he met with government officials from both countries. The President of Slovenia presented Senator Voinovich with the Decoration of the Golden Order of Merit of the Republic of Slovenia, the highest award that can be bestowed upon a non-Slovenian citizen.

In both Croatia and Slovenia, the senator discussed opportunities for U.S. cooperation and U.S. investment in the region. In Slovenia, the senator also met with officials from the International Trust Fund for De-mining and Victim Assistance (ITF), an organization that conducts de-mining and training for de-mining throughout the region and in Afghanistan. ITF Director Dorijan Marsic presented the ITF’s past achievements and future plans up to the year 2010 to Senator Voinovich and thanked the senator for his support of the fund. So far, the U.S. government has contributed more than \$72 million to the fund, and an additional \$9.92 million in 2005. Senator Voinovich most recently secured \$10 million in matching funds in the *2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill*.

While in Croatia, the senator stressed the importance of moving forward with reforms, including the protection of minorities, and sending war criminal Ante Gotovina to The Hague. Then on December 21,

2005, Senator Voinovich introduced a resolution to recognize Croatia for its reforms in the areas of democracy, human rights and rule of law. The resolution also recommended that Croatia be invited to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as soon as it has completed the final reforms required for membership. This resolution was introduced after the arrest and transfer of Gotovina to The Hague. Gotovina was Croatia's last remaining indictee for war crimes; his arrest was one of the required steps for Croatia's membership in the European Union (EU) and NATO. The senator believes that Croatia's integration with the EU and NATO will bring stability and peace to the people of Croatia and the region. The resolution was passed in the Senate by Unanimous Consent on the same day that it was introduced, December 21, 2005.

Future Status of Kosovo

In September 2005, Senator Voinovich introduced a resolution on the future status of Kosovo. The resolution supports the initiation of United Nations (U.N.) talks about Kosovo's future status, supports greater authority for Kosovo's institutions, and calls for accelerated progress on standards to protect Kosovo's minorities and promote development. It also calls for increased monitoring of the situation on the ground and a broader public awareness campaign about the importance of reducing discrimination and ethnic violence. The resolution passed on October 7, 2005, by Unanimous Consent.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Voinovich focuses special attention on Kosovo, visiting three times since the end of the military campaign in 1999, and most recently in May 2002. This year has been one of progress and decision for the people of Kosovo. It is likely that Kosovo will soon enter into talks with representatives from the U.N., Serbia and Montenegro to discuss its future status. As talks move forward, it is critical that Kosovo continue to make progress in the areas of rule of law, human rights and the protection of minorities.

Funding Defense Priorities

Senator Voinovich helped secure \$82.36 billion for Department of Defense (DoD) Military Construction projects and for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in the *2006 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Conference Report*; \$104.79 million will be used for military construction projects in Ohio. This was an increase from the amount passed in the Senate and included the following additional projects requested by Senator Voinovich in a letter to the Conferees:

- \$11.6 million for the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center (JSMC) at the Lima Army Modification Center;
- \$12.95 million for a new academic building for the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base;
- \$7.5 million for the Joint Service Lodging Facility (Phase 1) at the Youngstown Air Reserve Station;
- \$1.293 million for the Mansfield Lahm Airport-Army National Guard Fire Station;
- \$7.923 million for the North Canton Army Aviation Support Facility-Army National Guard;
- \$4.7 million for the Camp Perry Station-Air National Guard Replace Troop Training; and
- \$58.82 million for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Amending the Defense Bill to Include 2nd Stryker Tire Source

Senator Voinovich sponsored an amendment to the *2006 Defense Authorization Bill* that will require the Secretary of the Army to conduct a study of the feasibility, costs and benefits of supplying a second source of tires for the Stryker combat vehicle. Currently, tires for the Stryker are supplied solely by a foreign manufacturer. Prior to the war in Iraq, the Army maintained an eight month supply of tires for its wheeled combat vehicles. However, that supply was soon depleted. The foreign manufacturer had to

shift production to focus almost entirely on the needs of the Army. Before the conflict, the Army only accounted for 10 percent of their production. The establishment of a second supplier would help ensure that tires would always be available when needed. The development of a domestic tire supplier would be beneficial to national security and would result in new jobs, including possibly for Goodyear in Ohio.

Groundbreaking of the Columbus Chalmers P. Wylie Outpatient Clinic

On September 12, 2005, Senator Voinovich joined the rest of the members of the central Ohio congressional delegation to break ground on the new \$94.8 million, 200,000 square-foot VA Ambulatory Care Center on the grounds of the Defense Supply Center in Columbus. The new clinic is being built to replace the undersized and outdated clinic that currently resides on Taylor Road. Upon completion in 2008, it will eliminate the need for almost 300 veterans to travel every week to Cleveland, Cincinnati and Dayton to obtain surgical care from other larger VA medical centers. Senator Voinovich has been involved in advocating for and obtaining the funding for the clinic since 2002. He also co-sponsored legislation that transferred the federal land to the VA for the clinic to be built on.

While Columbus ranks as the 15th largest city in the nation and is the biggest and fastest growing city in Ohio, it was one of only a handful of the nation's largest cities without a VA hospital. The current clinic was built to accommodate 135,000 veterans and was unable to meet the demands of the 250,000 central Ohio veterans.

Making the Air Force Institute of Technology More Competitive

Senator Voinovich co-sponsored an amendment to the *2006 Defense Authorization Bill* that will authorize the United States Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) to accept privately funded research grants, giving the AFIT faculty the same authority to accept private grants that the U.S. Military Academy, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy have now. This will make the school more competitive with other universities and will be a huge benefit to AFIT, which has periodically been threatened in military reorganizations. Accepting privately funded research grants is a common way that universities obtain money to conduct their research and work, and it was previously denied to AFIT. This is part of a broad effort to increase funding for AFIT through nonappropriated funds. The amendment comes two years after the senator successfully fought for a provision that allowed AFIT to take tuition money from non-Air Force students.

Comments and Quotes on John Bolton Nomination

"Voinovich's independence should be celebrated and cheap attacks on him are certainly unwarranted when he is simply doing what the public expects. Whether or not John Bolton is the best person as U.N. ambassador is still a debate. But George Voinovich is trying to make sure the right decision is made and that type of independence is why Ohioans sent him back to Washington."

Editorial, *Portsmouth Daily Times*, April 23, 2005

"The former Ohio governor should be commended for occasionally differing with President Bush and GOP leaders in Congress. Independent thinking should be – but is not – a prized commodity in highly partisan Washington... Lawmakers should follow their consciences rather than the party line."

Editorial, *Furor Over U.N. Nominee*, *Columbus Dispatch*, April 28, 2005

"Those who have followed Voinovich from Cleveland to the Statehouse to the nation's capital, know well his episodes of unbridled candor, those moments when little political varnish remains, and he states candidly and forcefully in mind. In that way, Thursday featured Full Voinovich, made all the more remarkable by the cast of eyes upon him."

Editorial, *Full Voinovich in Full View*, *Akron Beacon Journal*, May 15, 2005

“Worth attention still is the other aspect of the Senate role in confirming presidential nominees: the ‘advice’ part. Voinovich fulfilled the duty bravely, marvelously.”

Editorial, **Full Voinovich in Full View**, Akron Beacon Journal, May 15, 2005

“George Voinovich understands the linkage, persuasiveness leading to influence, influence adding to power.”

Editorial, **Leader of the Pack: George Voinovich, A Lonely Voice on John Bolton?**, Akron Beacon Journal, June 1, 2005

“Voinovich isn’t the type to be reckless about a nomination. He understands keenly the importance of the president forging his own team. He deserves great credit for standing with the many Republicans (an extraordinary number, really, albeit not in the Senate) who have come forward to speak candidly and critically about the nomination.”

Editorial, **Boltin’ from Bolton**, Akron Beacon Journal, June 22, 2005

“Voinovich did the honorable thing by standing up for principle in the face of intense partisan pressure.”

Editorial, **No Break for John**, Cleveland Plain Dealer, June 22, 2005

“Voinovich isn’t somebody who goes looking for fights, particularly with a president. But when he makes up his mind, he’s not afraid to say what he thinks. He likes being in the corridors of power, but he’s not so caught up in the pomp that he won’t ask, ‘What in the world are you doing, Mr. President?’”

Editorial, **DeWine, Voinovich Just Said No: Bush Has to Note Their ‘Advice’**, Dayton Daily News, May 29, 2005

“The former Cleveland mayor and Ohio governor then did the Voinovich thing, straight, honest, independent, applying all those years of public experience and the ‘kitchen test,’ that instinct of whether the job and the man fit.”

Editorial, **Classic Voinovich: The Ohio Senator Flashed His Independence Again. In Doing So, He Invites the Right Questions About John Bolton**, Akron Beacon Journal, April 26, 2005

“...It is refreshing to see Senator Voinovich, a gentleman of the old school, insist on hearing the full story about Mr. Bolton, even if it means going against his fellow Republicans. More senators should have such scruples.”

Editorial, **A Senator With Scruples**, Toledo Blade, April 26, 2005

Comments and Quotes on Kosovo

“The Administration’s focus on the Middle East during a time of major war is understandable. Yet, it must resist the urge to wash its hands of a region that still has plenty of potential for widespread bloodshed left in it. Voinovich is right to highlight the dangers of a precipitous U.S. pullout.”

News Article, **Re-engaging in Kosovo**, Cleveland Plain Dealer, February 22, 2005

“The Bush administration, opening an initiative to stabilize the troubled Balkan states, is seeking to speed up talks to grant greater independence for Kosovo in return for strides by the Kosovo government to protect the rights of Serbs and other minorities, State Department officials have announced. A senior State Department official gave credit to Mr. Holbrooke for pressing the need for greater involvement in the Balkans and also to Senator George V. Voinovich, an Ohio Republican who is of Serbian and Slovenian descent.”

News Article, **U.S. Is Seeking to Speed Up Talks on Kosovo's Status**, New York Times, May 21, 2005

American Competitiveness

As a country we must step back and design an infrastructure that will allow us to compete in the 21st century global marketplace – an infrastructure that will guarantee that our children and grandchildren will enjoy the same quality of life and standard of living that we have.

-Senator George V. Voinovich, remarks, Ohio University Alumnus of the Year Award, October 21, 2005

Health Care

Strengthening and Improving Medicare and Guaranteeing a Prescription Drug Benefit

In 2003, with the senator's support, Congress passed legislation that finally provides Medicare beneficiaries with a voluntary prescription drug benefit. This is especially important to the more than 400,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Ohio who had no public or private prescription drug coverage. The new program ensures that all Medicare beneficiaries will receive substantial help paying for prescription drugs, with low-income seniors receiving additional assistance. For those beneficiaries who already have coverage through another source, such as a former employer, and who want to keep that coverage, the legislation supports that choice as well.

Beginning on January 1, 2006, a new optional drug benefit is being offered under Medicare. The plan will have an average \$32 monthly premium. After a \$250 deductible, the benefit will cover 75 percent of all prescription drug costs up to \$2,250. Should seniors consume over \$3,600 in out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs, the federal government would pick up 95 percent of drug costs. The new plan will also modernize the Medicare program to provide seniors access to preventive lifesaving benefits. The initial enrollment period for the benefit began on November 15, 2005, and extends through May 15, 2006.

Since 2003, Senator Voinovich and his staff have been traveling across the state to educate seniors about the new opportunity. In 2005, the senator personally held seven events, in conjunction with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Ohio Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP), and the Social Security Administration (SSA), to explain the new benefit. In addition, his staff held, participated in or attended over 115 events and meetings reaching over 6,300 beneficiaries around the state.

Ensuring the Safe Reimportation of Prescription Drugs

Senator Voinovich believes that no one should have to go to Canada, or any other foreign country, to find affordable drugs, which is why he supported the new voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit. However, he also believes that seniors should have full access to every option for saving money without compromising the safety or authenticity of those drugs.

That's why Senator Voinovich is urging the Administration to regulate the safety of drugs imported to the U.S., and why he has also co-sponsored the *Safe IMPORT Act* to create such a system.

While the bill does not guarantee that Americans will always save money by buying drugs from other countries, it would make it possible for Americans to have access to a variety of choices and ensure that they are getting safe and effective medicines.

Protecting Medicare Beneficiaries

During debate on the Budget Reconciliation process in the Senate, Senator Voinovich was successful in offering an amendment that will ensure that Medicare beneficiaries will maintain access to power mobility devices. Ninety-five percent of the time, Medicare beneficiaries choose to purchase power mobility devices when they are first issued to them as almost all beneficiaries who need these devices have a long-term, usually life-long need for the product.

The Senate Finance Committee's budget reconciliation package contained a provision to eliminate the initial purchase option and instead, require Medicare beneficiaries to rent power wheelchairs, which could prove to be a financial burden on suppliers and decrease the number of suppliers who carry the devices. This could eliminate access for many beneficiaries who truly need the power wheelchairs to accomplish basic requirements of daily living.

Senator Voinovich's amendment maintained the initial purchase option in order to protect the needs of Ohio's Medicare beneficiaries. It was accepted to the reconciliation bill by Unanimous Consent. The bill was amended before passing the Senate in December 2005. It went back to the House of Representatives for consideration early in 2006.

Education

Head Start Teachers Loan Forgiveness

Again in the 109th Congress, Senator Voinovich reintroduced legislation he has sponsored with Senator Dianne Feinstein since coming to the Senate in the 106th Congress. The legislation aims to expand the federal loan forgiveness program to include Head Start teachers. By expanding this program, Head Start teachers could have up to \$5,000 of their student loans forgiven in exchange for five years of teaching.

A long-time champion of early childhood education programs, Senator Voinovich is committed to recruiting the best and brightest teachers for the Head Start program, which serves over 900,000 low-income children and their families. A survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Head Start Family and Child Experiences Survey (FACES) found a strong correlation between the education level of Head Start teachers and classroom quality. Nationwide, only 30 percent of Head Start teachers have completed a baccalaureate or advanced degree program.

Several studies have corroborated the importance of Head Start programs. A study conducted on a preschool program in Chicago showed that for every dollar invested in Head Start, society saved \$8 in projected costs. Additionally, 26 percent more children were likely to finish high school and 40 percent were less likely to repeat a grade. The National Head Start Association found that for every dollar invested in Head Start, society saves at least \$2.50 because participants need less remedial education and are less likely to utilize public assistance programs or be involved with the juvenile justice system than non-Head Start peers.

Early Childhood Program Collaboration

Together with Senator Lamar Alexander, Senator Voinovich successfully expanded the Centers of Excellence provision in the pending Head Start Reauthorization. Senator Alexander proposed the creation of a nationwide network of 200 Centers of Excellence in Early Childhood built around exemplary Head Start programs. This will strengthen Head Start and all early childhood programs by demonstrating a high quality early childhood curriculum that leads to school readiness.

Thanks to Senator Voinovich's leadership, the Senate Head Start Reauthorization builds on Senator Alexander's original proposal and emphasizes the importance of providing services for the health, well-being and education of our youngest citizens. The Head Start Reauthorization would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to choose Centers that already 1) demonstrate the existence of a local council for excellence in early childhood, which shall include representatives of the institutions, agencies and groups that provide services to eligible children and other at-risk children; and 2) provide a description of how the Center will expand accessibility and continuity of quality early care and education services and coordinate the early care and education activities with programs carried out under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), Early Head Start, Early Reading First, other Title I preschool programs, the Ready to Learn television program and preschool programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This will ensure that the Centers also provide a

strong example of how good Head Start programs take a seamless approach to providing comprehensive health and social services that will ensure children start school both healthy and ready to learn.

Reading to Children

Senator Voinovich believes one of the best investments the nation can make is in its children, particularly in the first years of their lives. In their ongoing efforts to reach out to children, Senator Voinovich and his wife, Janet, supported the Read Out and Read Program (ROR), a national program that promotes literacy and language development in infants and young children. Through the program, doctors and nurses give new books to children during visits from age six months to five years, and accompany these books with developmentally appropriate advice to parents about reading aloud with their children. Volunteers read to the children in the waiting room, and each child receives a book to take home and read.

In October 2005, Senator and Mrs. Voinovich read to kindergarteners from the Urban Community School at McCafferty Health Center in Cleveland, and the ROR National Center donated several hundred books to McCafferty. The program has been in operation for more than 15 years, is government funded and was up for renewal in the fall. Over the past several years, Senator Voinovich has sent a letter to Labor, HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Arlen Specter in support of the program. On March 17, 2005, he signed onto a letter to Chairman Specter in support of \$10 million for the program in 2006. The *Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill* included up to \$9 million for the program when it was signed into law on December 20, 2005.

Jobs and Economic Development

Reducing the Burden on Minority Businesses

During consideration of the Highway Reauthorization bill, Senator Voinovich voted in favor of an amendment that would reduce the burden on minority small businesses as they compete for federal highway contracts. This amendment directs the Secretary of Transportation to notify each state and locality to which federal highway funds are sent of the change in the law to ensure that minority contractors are not disadvantaged and job opportunities are increased. He believes this amendment will reduce the burden on minority small businesses, allowing them to become more competitive in seeking federal highway contracts.

Opening Markets for Free Trade: CAFTA

Since his days as governor, Senator Voinovich has worked to open markets around the world for Ohio exports. He has also worked to strengthen the United States' leadership in promoting free and fair global trade. In June 2005, Senator Voinovich voted in support of S. 1307, a bill to approve and implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). CAFTA will create the second largest free trade zone in Latin America for U.S. imports. It will eliminate most trade barriers among the United States, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

Presently, most imports from Central America and the Dominican Republic enter the United States duty-free, but U.S. exports to these countries face substantial tariffs. CAFTA will help level the playing field for American farmers, businesses, and entrepreneurs by eliminating most tariffs on American exports to CAFTA countries. By lowering barriers in key sectors like textiles and apparel, CAFTA will also put U.S. companies in a better position to compete with low-cost producers in Asia.

Expanding global trade is crucial to the long-term competitiveness of the U.S. economy, and CAFTA is an important step in opening markets throughout the world to U.S. goods. Access to international markets is crucial to keeping Ohio's agricultural industry competitive. Further, CAFTA will open a market of 44 million consumers for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, and services.

CAFTA also improves protection of intellectual property (IP) rights. Without CAFTA, U.S. companies are more vulnerable to IP theft. It also contains other important protections for labor rights and the environment.

Leveling the Playing Field: Ending China's Currency Manipulation

Senator Voinovich frequently talks to manufacturers throughout the State of Ohio, and he repeatedly hears how Ohio manufacturers are suffering at the hand of Chinese imports with artificially low prices due to the undervaluation of the Chinese currency. For many years, China has been manipulating the exchange rate of its currency to provide a hidden subsidy to its exports, which some experts contend has resulted in the Chinese currency being undervalued by as much as 40 percent against the dollar. The undervaluation of the Chinese currency artificially lowers the cost of Chinese exports and puts Ohio companies, especially Ohio's manufacturers, at an unfair disadvantage in the global marketplace.

On July 21, 2005, China announced it would be reforming its exchange rate policy, a small step in the right direction of eliminating the unfair trading situation that presently exists between the United States and China. Senator Voinovich took the following actions to level the playing field for Ohio manufacturers:

- For more than a year, Senator Voinovich urged Treasury Secretary John Snow to put the needed pressure on China to reform its exchange rate policy. While the senator is pleased that China has finally begun to reform its exchange rate, he believes China has much more to do to eliminate the unfair subsidization of Chinese exports caused by its undervalued currency. Their decision on July 21 appreciated China's currency by only 2 percent.
- Early in 2005, Senator Voinovich personally spoke to China's Premier Wen Jiabao about his country's exchange rate policy. The senator told him that China's exchange rate policy was hurting many Ohio companies and did not permit American companies to compete on a level playing field.
- On May 12, 2005, Senator Voinovich was added as a co-sponsor to S. 984, the *Fair Currency Practices Act of 2005*. This legislation would amend the *Exchange Rates and International Economic Policy Coordination Act of 1988* to clarify the definition of currency manipulation. Under this legislation, if the Treasury Department determines that a country is manipulating its currency, the Department is required to enter into negotiations with the country to address the manipulation.

Protecting State Economic Development Incentives: CUNO v. DaimlerChrysler

On September 2, 2004, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in *Cuno v. DaimlerChrysler* that Ohio's investment tax credit program violated the U.S. Constitution because it was an attempt by a state to interfere with interstate commerce. The tax credit program in question, the Ohio Machinery and Equipment Investment Tax Credit program, was used successfully by Senator Voinovich while he was governor to convince DaimlerChrysler to build its Jeep plant in Toledo. Tax incentives such as these play a key role in ensuring the economic vitality of many cities in Ohio and across the nation.

In May 2005, Senator Voinovich authored legislation to defend the rights of states to offer tax incentives to promote economic development and create jobs within their borders. Specifically, his bill would ensure that such programs do not violate the Constitution's Interstate Commerce Clause. This bipartisan bill authorizes states to provide tax incentives as part of their ability to provide economic development.

Since the creation of Ohio's investment tax credit program in 1995, businesses have been eligible to claim a total of \$2 billion in credits toward \$34 billion in new equipment investments. Overall in Ohio, the manufacturing sector accounts for the second highest weekly earnings of any economic sector and

supports local communities and schools with more than \$1 billion in corporate franchise and personal property taxes.

His legislation has received support from a bipartisan coalition of senators and governors, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of Counties, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities.

Protecting Intellectual Property Rights

Senator Voinovich believes that in the fierce competition of the global marketplace, intellectual property is an area where America has a clear advantage over foreign competitors. We must ensure that the products made from American innovation are not illegally copied. Senator Voinovich has committed himself over the last three years to protecting American Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), taking the following actions in 2005:

- On March 16, 2005, Senator Voinovich became a co-sponsor to S. 593, the *Stopping Overseas Subsidies Act of 2005*. This legislation was a re-introduction of S. 2212 from the 108th Congress, which he also co-sponsored. The bill would give the U.S. government the legal strength to enforce fair trade laws against all countries that export goods into the U.S. by revising current trade laws. It also would make it a crime to traffic in counterfeit labels or packaging, even when they are shipped separately from the products to which they are later attached. This bill would close a loophole in U.S. intellectual property laws that has allowed sophisticated counterfeiters to escape liability.
- On April 1, 2005, Senator Voinovich met with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao during his trip to China. He told Premier Wen that China needs to take more effective actions to enforce IPR in China and should move toward a more flexible exchange rate for the yuan. The senator discussed China's failure to protect IPR in accordance with its commitments under trade agreements with the United States, and gave him documentation on three Ohio companies that have had problems with intellectual property theft by firms operating in China. Senator Voinovich has worked with the Bush Administration to help these three Ohio manufacturers get the assistance they need from the federal government to combat the theft of their intellectual property.
- On April 14, 2005, Senator Voinovich met with U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez to discuss trade issues, including how the Administration can take more effective action to combat unfair trading practices by China. Secretary Gutierrez agreed to help in the senator's efforts to assist Ohio companies that have been the victims of intellectual property theft abroad.
- On April 28, 2005, Senator Voinovich met with U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow to discuss China's unfair trading practices and currency manipulation and urged the Secretary to take stronger action to get China to move toward a flexible exchange rate.
- Continuing a series of trade-related hearings Senator Voinovich has held in recent years, which include hearings on April 22, 2002, December 9, 2003, and April 20, 2004, he chaired a hearing on the Bush Administration's Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy entitled, "Finding and Fighting Fakes: Reviewing the Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy," on June 14, 2005. International trade in counterfeit and pirated goods accounts for an estimated seven percent of all global trade. The impact of this trade on the American economy is substantial with the trade in counterfeit goods alone costing U.S. industry between \$200 and \$250 billion annually according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Moreover, the problem is getting substantially worse. Since 2000, the number and value of intellectual property right seizures by the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection has more than doubled. As these statistics demonstrate, the ease of global travel when combined with modern communications and means of production means that intellectual property thieves can sell counterfeit goods around the globe operating from nearly any country in the world, and they can produce as many counterfeit and pirated goods as they can find

buyers. Some thieves are so skilled that their fakes are, in some cases, indistinguishable from the authentic products; even the producers of the authentic goods cannot tell them apart. Senator Voinovich's hearing examined the Bush Administration's efforts to combat this illicit trade, and he will continue to monitor this program.

- Following the hearing on STOP!, Senator Voinovich wrote a letter to the President, urging him to appoint as soon as possible an administrator responsible for coordinating the various federal agencies and departments responsible for protecting American intellectual property abroad. In July 2005, the President appointed Christian Israel as Coordinator of International Intellectual Property Enforcement.
- On September 14, 2005, Senator Voinovich was an original co-sponsor of S. 1699, the *Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act*, introduced by Senator Arlen Specter. The bill would make it a crime to traffic in counterfeit labels or packaging even when they are shipped separately from the products to which they are later attached. This bill would close a loophole in U.S. intellectual property laws that has allowed sophisticated counterfeiters to escape liability. S. 1699 currently has 15 co-sponsors and on November 3, 2005, was reported out of the Judiciary Committee to the full Senate. The House passed similar legislation in May 2005.
- On October 18, 2005, Senator Voinovich sponsored with Senator Carl Levin, as co-chairs of the Senate Auto Caucus, a Congressional briefing on the problems of counterfeiting in the auto parts industry. The purpose of the briefing was to increase awareness on Capitol Hill of the problem of intellectual property theft and what Congress can do to help companies that become the victims of intellectual property theft.
- Senator Voinovich successfully worked with many companies in Ohio to resolve trade disputes with China. On many occasions, he contacted the Department of Commerce, and he also sent letters to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez and U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman requesting their assistance with cases.
- On November 9, 2005, Senator Voinovich sponsored the *Intellectual Property Enforcement Act* with Senator Evan Bayh. The legislation will significantly enhance intellectual property enforcement domestically and internationally – creating one organized force to combat intellectual property theft and elevating government response to the same level as money laundering and other black-market crimes.

Working to Enact Asbestos Legislation

Throughout his tenure in the Senate, Senator Voinovich has been working with Ohio companies to enact legislation to establish medical criteria and screening for individuals seeking payment for asbestos injuries. Runaway asbestos litigation has forced many Ohio companies into bankruptcy. These bankruptcies have prevented many victims who are sick from receiving compensation.

On April 19, 2005, Senator Voinovich joined Senator Arlen Specter and a bipartisan group of senators to introduce S. 825, the *Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act of 2005*. The legislation is the result of much deliberation and compromise. While the bill ensures that truly sick individuals receive fair and just compensation, it also protects against frivolous lawsuits. Senator Voinovich will continue to work during the 109th Congress with a bipartisan group of senators to ensure that this legislation passes the Senate.

Reforming America's Troubled Tort System

Since his days as governor of Ohio, George Voinovich has been concerned with what he calls the litigation tornado that is sweeping through Ohio, as well as the nation. As governor, he was instrumental

in the passage of tort reform legislation in the state of Ohio which, unfortunately, was struck down by the Ohio Supreme Court.

As a member of the Senate, he has focused on addressing the devastating impact of litigation on Ohio and the country. On January 25, 2005, Senator Voinovich joined Senator Chuck Grassley as a co-sponsor of S. 5, the *Class Action Fairness Act of 2005*. This bill improves the handling of massive U.S. class action lawsuits while preserving the rights of citizens to bring such actions. The bill also ensures that injured parties receive just compensation, and that the awards cover more than transaction costs and lawyers' fees. On February 10, 2005, the Senate passed S. 5, with Senator Voinovich's support. President Bush signed this legislation into law on February 18, 2005.

Energy

Second Declaration of Independence

To remain competitive in the global marketplace, the nation must control energy costs. The Energy Bill passed in 2005 is a tremendous step toward the nation's energy independence, but it should not be assumed that those efforts will suffice. Much like the nation committed itself when the Russians launched Sputnik and the U.S. and Russia entered the race to space, Senator Voinovich believes the country should have a national commitment to becoming more energy independent. This is important not just for the economy, but for national security. In this era when the United States is engaged in a war on terror, helping curb dependence on foreign sources of energy is even more critical.

Establishing a sound energy policy, protecting the environment, and stimulating the economy are not mutually exclusive priorities. In order for the United States to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st century, it is time for a "Second Declaration of Independence," which is critical to the United States' economic and national security interests. Senator Voinovich will continue to work with his colleagues and the Administration to sever the outflow of jobs and reduce energy costs for millions of families and businesses across America.

A Comprehensive Energy Policy: the Energy Bill

After five years of hard work, the Senate passed the Energy Bill, marking the first time in decades that the United States will have a comprehensive energy plan. This bill will increase access to domestic energy resources and will result in a better economy for Ohio in the decades to come. High energy costs are destroying Ohio's economy and forcing our neediest, the poor and elderly, to choose between paying their utility bills and other essential needs.

- **Mandatory Electric Reliability Standards** – The Energy Bill also includes provisions which will provide the federal government with mandatory, enforceable electricity reliability standards to the federal government to protect the reliability of the electricity grid. In 2003, Senator Voinovich held two hearings on this important issue, and expert witnesses at both hearings agreed standards such as these will help prevent future blackouts. The conference report changes the current voluntary system that operators of the nation's transmission grid operate under to a new mandatory, enforceable system which will include penalties for violating the new standards. Reliability standards like these will help prevent future blackouts such as the one that knocked out power to much of Ohio, the Northeast United States and parts of Canada on August 14, 2003.
- **Ethanol** – The Energy Bill contains a provision that will increase the national use of ethanol to 7.5 billion gallons annually by 2012, an increase from the 3.4 billion gallons produced in 2004. This increase in ethanol production will benefit Ohio's farmers. Ohio is currently the sixth largest corn-producing state, ranks fourth in use of ethanol (behind California, Illinois and Minnesota), and is the largest corn state without an ethanol plant. This provision will help Ohio develop an ethanol industry, which is good for Ohio's economy. For example, construction of a plant capable of producing 50 million gallons annually would take 14 to 18 months to complete, create 370 local

jobs and generate approximately \$60 to \$130 million in additional income. Once operational, a plant of this size would rely on an estimated 18 million bushels of corn annually, employ approximately 50 people and generate an estimated \$47 to \$100 million in additional income.

- **Clean Coal Technology** – The Energy Bill calls for public-private clean coal research and development to be implemented by government-industry partnerships, which will keep coal-fired electricity cost-effective and competitive while lowering emissions. Funding will demonstrate the commercial applicability of advanced coal-based projects and will support technology for the capture of carbon dioxide. Additionally, the bill creates \$2.9 billion in new clean coal tax incentives, which will offset the risks associated with early commercial applications of advanced clean coal. It will also assist in re-powering and retrofitting existing coal-based generation facilities with clean coal technology.
- **FutureGen** – The Department of Energy (DOE) is partnering with the private-sector FutureGen Industrial Alliance to provide jobs while advancing clean-coal technology. The goal of this project is to facilitate the design, construction and operation of the world's first zero-emissions power plant, which is critical to the continued and expanded use of coal and is anticipated to provide 100 permanent technical jobs, 2,000 construction jobs and hundreds of spin-off jobs in the broader regional research community over the years. As part of efforts to tout Ohio, Senator Voinovich met with U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, U.S. Representative Ralph Regula (R-OH) and JoAnn Davidson, facilitator of the Ohio FutureGen Task Force, to detail why the FutureGen clean-coal initiative should be located in Ohio. Senator Voinovich emphasized that Ohio has the fuel source, atmosphere, geology and manpower needed to address regional environmental problems while protecting the economic and environmental health of one of the nation's largest industrial and manufacturing regions. The FutureGen initiative received \$18 million in the *2006 Energy and Water Conference Report*.
- **Amendment to Increase Jet Fuel Efficiency** – Senator Voinovich's amendment would bring high paying aerospace jobs to Ohio by requiring NASA and the Department of Energy to collaborate on research and development efforts to increase jet engine fuel efficiency by 10 percent by 2010. A 10 percent reduction in fuel consumption, when fully commercialized, would save 130 million gallons of jet fuel every year. With this amendment, jobs could be promoted at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, as well as the GE facility in Evendale, which would be in the competition to be a leader in research and development.
- **Renewable Energy** – The Energy Bill creates \$2.9 billion in renewable and clean energy tax incentives. Examples include renewable electricity produced from wind, closed- and open-loop biomass, geothermal, small irrigation power, landfill gas and trash combustion facilities.

Cleaning the Environment

The Clear Skies Act

As chairman of the Senate Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Senator Voinovich is committed to reducing power plant emissions to improve public health and protect the environment. That's why he sponsored and has been diligently calling for passage of the President's Clear Skies plan. This initiative harmonizes the nation's environmental, energy and economic policies, reduces air emissions by 70 percent and ensures access to a balanced variety of energy sources – coal, renewables, oil and nuclear.

In 2005, Senator Voinovich worked to pass this legislation by holding hearings and trying to negotiate a compromise. He introduced a comprehensive proposal with Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe in response to the concerns raised with the legislation. Unfortunately, members were unwilling to negotiate and the bill did not pass the Committee by a vote of 9 to 9. Senator

Voinovich remains committed to enacting this legislation and hopes that the Committee can come together on an agreement.

In the meantime, EPA moved forward with the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) in order to obtain the sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions reductions called for in the legislation in eastern states, including Ohio. Until states submit their compliance plans to the EPA in 2007 and 2008, Ohio's 38 non-attainment counties face continued barriers to job creation. Working to help these communities, Senator Voinovich held a hearing on the implementation of the existing particulate matter and ozone air quality standards on November 10, 2005.

While CAIR will help improve Ohio's air quality and help move counties currently in non-attainment toward compliance, it could be blocked or delayed by litigation as numerous administrative and legal challenges have already been filed. This would leave in limbo communities seeking to clean their air and companies trying to make sense out of a decade of ever-shifting regulations. Clear Skies prevents this uncertainty and would spare Ohio the freeze on economic development that CAIR leaves unsolved.

Support for Sensible Reductions of Mercury Emissions

Senator Voinovich led the fight on the Senate floor to defeat a resolution aimed at overturning EPA's Clean Air Mercury Rule to reduce power plant emissions of mercury by 70 percent. This rule made the United States the first nation in the world to regulate mercury emissions from existing coal-fired power plants. Proponents of rolling back the new mercury rule advocate for a different, more stringent standard that would have little impact at great cost. The resolution was defeated by a vote of 51 to 47.

EPA's mercury regulations establish a "cap-and-trade" program to cut overall power plant mercury emissions. This approach has proven to be extremely efficient and cost-effective in reducing emissions. Proponents of rolling back the new mercury rule advocate for a different kind of standard which would require a 90 percent reduction in just three years, even though this level of reduction is not currently achievable.

While EPA estimates the cost of its cap-and-trade rule at about \$2 billion, the independent Energy Information Administration has projected costs as high as \$358 billion for a hypothetical plan to reduce emissions by 90 percent. The return for such a regulation would be an average increase in national electricity and natural gas prices of 20 percent, an additional reduction in U.S. mercury deposition of just two percent, and an almost immeasurable decline in people's exposure to mercury.

The reason this more stringent regulation would have little or no benefit is because U.S. power plants account for a small percentage of worldwide mercury emissions, and most of the mercury deposited in the nation comes from outside the country and natural sources. Mercury pollution is a global issue because it can travel hundreds and thousands of miles. About 55 percent of worldwide mercury emissions come from natural sources, such as oceans and volcanoes. Only one percent of worldwide emissions come from U.S. power plants. From 1990 to 1999, EPA estimates that U.S. emissions of mercury were reduced by nearly half – which has been completely offset by increases in emissions from Asia. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated in their 2005 comprehensive report that all U.S. women of childbearing age studied had blood mercury levels below that associated with neurodevelopmental effects in the fetus.

Senator Voinovich is a strong advocate for reducing mercury emissions from power plants to decrease the health risk. In fact, he is the main advocate for a plan that would responsibly achieve greater reductions in mercury emissions than EPA's rule – but he is not in support of a proposal that would impose extreme costs on Ohio families and businesses for little or no benefit.

Reducing Diesel Emissions, Improving the Environment

Working with environmental, industry, and public officials, Senator Voinovich introduced the *Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2005* (DERA) with a bipartisan group of senators on June 16, 2005. The bill

was passed into law 45 days later on August 8, 2005, making it the fastest piece of legislation ever to move through the Senate. The legislation authorizes \$1 billion over five years to establish voluntary national and state grant and loan programs for diesel emissions reduction projects and programs to improve air quality and protect public health.

While diesel engines are the workhorse of the American economy, they also emit harmful emissions. On-road heavy duty diesel vehicles, such as transit buses and garbage trucks, and non-road diesel vehicles, such as construction equipment and tractors, account for roughly one-half of the nitrogen oxide and particulate matter emissions from mobile sources nationwide. These emissions contribute to ozone formation and fine particulate matter, and they contain numerous other chemicals that are listed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as hazardous air pollutants. EPA has finalized diesel fuel and new engine regulations that will reduce diesel emissions from new vehicles and equipment by more than 80 percent from 2000 levels. However, the full benefits will not be realized until 2030 because of the long lifetime of the 11 million existing engines.

In the meantime, EPA has designated 495 counties nationally, including 38 Ohio counties, as in non-attainment for the new ozone and/or particulate matter air quality standards. Currently, state and local governments are hard at work developing plans to meet the new, fast-approaching deadlines for the air quality standards – but without federal assistance, many will fall short.

In order to help states and communities meet these standards and reduce exposure to harmful diesel emissions, Senator Voinovich introduced DERA with the understanding that existing engines can benefit from technology that “retrofits” or replaces older engines. In doing so, cost-effective emissions reductions can be provided for these fleets and dramatically accelerate the public health benefits.

As chairman of the Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Senator Voinovich held a hearing on the bill on July 12, 2005. Additionally, the Environment and Public Works Committee passed DERA unanimously on July 20, 2005. Senator Voinovich also proposed DERA as an amendment to the Energy Bill. The amendment passed by a vote of 92 to 1.

After the legislation became law, Senator Voinovich quickly set to work to obtain funding for it in fiscal year 2007. He called a meeting with Senators Tom Carper and Hillary Clinton and over 30 environmental, industry and public groups in September 2005. At this meeting, Senator Voinovich convinced the various groups to join together in support of funding for DERA instead of working separately for multiple other recently authorized diesel programs. Since DERA is broad enough that all of the other programs could be carried out within it, he argued that the effort to secure substantial funding would be more successful if everyone worked together.

In November 2005, the major state and local groups and over 200 environmental, industry, public and labor groups sent letters to President Bush requesting that he include in his fiscal year 2007 budget \$200 million for DERA and consolidate all of the diesel emissions reductions programs under this one.

Bringing Cleveland Into Compliance

Senator Voinovich chaired a Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety hearing on the implementation of the existing particulate matter and ozone air quality standards. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated 495 counties nationally, including 38 Ohio counties, as in non-attainment for the new standards.

The Cleveland area faces tremendous difficulties to come into attainment with the ozone standard by the required date of 2010. In submitted testimony for the hearing, Ohio EPA Director Joe Koncelik stated, “We have performed studies that show that even if all of industry was shut down and the area depopulated, it would just barely be able to meet the standard by 2010...” Failure to attain the standard by this date means greater economic restrictions on an already suffering area. At the hearing, Senator Voinovich obtained a commitment from the U.S. EPA to work with him, Ohio EPA, and other groups,

including Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), on bringing Cleveland into compliance with the ozone air quality standard.

Providing for the Safe and Secure Growth of Nuclear Power

Legislation: As chairman of the Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee, Senator Voinovich introduced three bills with Senator Jim Inhofe to provide for the safe and secure growth of nuclear power. These three bills were passed by the EPW Committee on June 8, 2005 and were enacted into law as part of the Energy Bill on August 8, 2005:

- ***Nuclear Fees Reauthorization Act of 2005*** – S. 858, the *Nuclear Fees Reauthorization Act of 2005*, allows the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to continue to recover 90 percent of its budget through licensee fees. If this fee authority had expired in 2005, NRC would only have been allowed to collect 33 percent with the remaining amount coming from the Treasury. Extending the fee authority kept the taxpayers from having to make up the over \$300 million difference. The bill includes reforms that the NRC has requested to help them better perform their mission and assist in the growth of nuclear power. It also includes important human capital provisions, which are a positive step toward attracting both young talent and retired experts to address current shortages in technical capabilities at the Commission.
- ***Nuclear Safety and Security Act of 2005*** – S. 864, the *Nuclear Safety and Security Act of 2005* includes provisions to strengthen security at the nation's nuclear plants. The bill includes, among other things, provisions on weapons, fingerprinting and federal crimes. Passage of this bill led the NRC to propose a rule in November 2005 that will amend its regulations pertaining to the threat that nuclear power must be able to defend against. These changes in requirements will significantly strengthen security at the power plants across the nation – including Ohio's two plants (Davis Besse and Perry).
- ***Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 2005*** – S. 865, the *Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 2005* reauthorizes the Price-Anderson liability protection program for 20 years – until 2025 – which is imperative for the construction of new nuclear plants. For 45 years, this program has provided a proven framework of liability protection for the public in the case of a nuclear incident.

As part of his effort to pass these bills, Senator Voinovich held a closed hearing on May 17, 2005, to discuss nuclear security issues and a Nuclear Regulatory Commission oversight hearing on May 20, 2005. He also championed provisions that were enacted into the Energy Bill to encourage the construction of new nuclear plants: federal loan guarantees for new nuclear plant construction and production tax credits for electricity produced by new power plants.

Funding: Senator Voinovich was instrumental in securing \$41 million in the *2006 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill* to provide for the continued increase in safety and security at commercial nuclear power plants as well as for the expansion of the commercial nuclear fleet across the United States.

This increased funding is critical to providing the country with domestically produced energy while shoring up our national and energy security. It provides for the hiring and training of 140 critical staff to approve newer and more efficient generations of nuclear power plants, hence making the country even more competitive in the global marketplace. However, safety and security must remain at the forefront of the nuclear industry. This funding goes a long way in closing any remaining safety and security issues.

In May 2005, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Chairman Nils Diaz made Senator Voinovich aware of the need for \$41 million more in funding for the NRC to address safety and security at existing plants and provide technical staffing for the licensing of new nuclear plants. While the Senate version included this funding, Senator Voinovich discovered that the House version of the *2006 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill* called for only \$21 million more in funding. He sent a letter to House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Chairman Dave Hobson and Ranking Member Pete

Visclosky, requesting an additional \$20 million in appropriations. In response, a total of \$41 million above the President's request for the NRC was included in the conference report.

In addition to being chairman of the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety, which oversees the NRC, Senator Voinovich is chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, which has uniquely positioned him to lead the way in the Senate by assisting the NRC to obtain the right skill mix of technical staff needed to address the renaissance of the U.S. commercial nuclear industry.

Efforts to Restore the Great Lakes

Since the beginning of his public career, Senator Voinovich has committed himself to stopping the deterioration of the Great Lakes. Nearly 40 years ago, when he was elected to the Ohio Legislature, he waged what he refers to as the "Second Battle of Lake Erie" to reclaim and restore Ohio's Great Lakes. Since then, the senator has joined with federal agencies, governors, mayors, tribes and various other organizations to develop a comprehensive restoration plan for the Great Lakes. After extensive discussions, the Federal Great lakes Interagency Task Force, the Council of Great Lakes Governors, the Great Lakes Cities Initiative, Great Lakes tribes and the Great Lakes Congressional Task Force moved to convene a group now known as the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC). Since May 18, 2004, the GLRC has worked hard to develop a comprehensive Great Lakes restoration plan.

On July 7, 2005, the GLRC released its draft strategy report. A final comprehensive report was released on December 12, 2005, in Chicago, Illinois. This report reflected a bipartisan effort to help tackle the issue of restoration in the Great Lakes region. Throughout this process, Senator Voinovich has been actively involved, urging the Collaboration to develop a final plan that immediately impacts the Great Lakes in a positive manner while being fiscally responsible. Senator Voinovich will continue to be involved as Congress will likely be asked to implement many of the GLRC recommendations in the next session. His position on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee makes him an important player in helping restore and protect the Great Lakes in many ways:

- **Fighting Lake Erie "Dead Zones"** – The Great Lakes' proximity to major urban areas has made them an invaluable resource for drinking water, recreation and transportation, but they're also a vital habitat for fish and wildlife. Balancing these different roles hasn't always been achieved, but thanks to responsible stewardship, the Lakes have made an incredible comeback. Hypoxia (low-oxygen areas in bodies of water) has been steadily increasing in Lake Erie since 1995 and is threatening the Lake's stability. Algal blooms are also a major problem in the Great Lakes, and they have been estimated to cost the U.S. economy as much as \$50 million per year due to closure of fisheries and beaches and treatment of human illnesses from exposure to toxins. As authorized by the *Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004*, Senator Voinovich successfully included an amendment in the Senate version of the *2006 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill* (CJS) to provide as much as \$15 million for research on hypoxia and harmful algal blooms in United States coastal waters, including the Great Lakes. While this amendment was not included in the final conference report, the bill still includes important funding for this research. This year Senator Voinovich was also able to secure \$500,000 in funding in the *2006 CJS Appropriations Conference Report* for the Bowling Green State University (BGSU) Lake Erie Water Quality Monitoring program. The funding will allow BGSU, in conjunction with Heidelberg College, to use a LANDSAT satellite to produce images of the algal blooms. They are also working on developing a detector instrument, which will be able to perform continuous algal measurements (the current satellite technology only produces updated data and images every eight days). This research, which also authorized Senator Voinovich's enacted Great Lakes hypoxia provisions, will allow for further advancements in combating these

dead zones and helping restore Lake Erie, and all of the Great Lakes, to being vibrant, healthy places where wildlife and plant life can flourish. The President signed the CJS Appropriations bill into law on November 22, 2005.

- **Combating Invasive Species: Keeping Asian Carp Out of the Great Lakes** – As Mayor of Cleveland, Senator Voinovich was alarmed about the introduction of zebra mussels into the Great Lakes and conducted the first national meeting to discuss the problem. In July 2005, Senator Voinovich co-sponsored legislation that lists three species of Asian Carp as injurious wildlife under the *Lacey Act*, ensuring that the species cannot be imported into the United States or across state lines without a permit. Under the *Lacey Act*, it is unlawful to import, export, sell, acquire or purchase fish, wildlife or plants taken, possessed, transported or sold: 1) in violation of U.S. or Indian law, or 2) in interstate or foreign commerce involving any fish, wildlife or plants taken, possessed or sold in violation of state or foreign law. The senator is working to list Asian carp under the law so that they cannot be brought into this country anymore and invade the Great lakes.

Asian Carp threaten native fish by quickly consuming large quantities of phytoplankton, which is critical to the stability of the ecosystem. Originally, they were introduced to the United States as a management tool for aqua culture farms and sewage treatment facilities. However, the carp made their way north to the Illinois River after escaping from fish farms during massive flooding along the Mississippi River more than 10 years ago. Asian Carp can grow to an average of four feet and 60 pounds and can consume up to 40 percent of their body weight in plankton per day. This pivotal legislation will send a clear message to the Great Lakes states – commitment to protecting the Lakes from all invasive species, including Asian Carp. In addition, Senator Voinovich remains committed to helping develop and advance comprehensive legislation regarding aquatic invasive species. He continues to work with his colleagues on the Environment and Public Works Committee to help achieve this goal.

- **Great Lakes Oil and Gas Drilling** – Senator Voinovich has continued to keep oil and gas drilling out of the American side of the Lakes. He led the charge against drilling in the Great Lakes as a state legislator in the late 1960s, initiating resolutions in the Ohio, Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania state legislatures urging their respective governors to oppose exploratory drilling. Continuing these efforts in the Senate, Senator Voinovich included amendments in both the FY2003 and FY2005 *Omnibus Appropriations Acts* to extend the current moratorium on oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes until the end of FY2007. The *Energy Policy Act of 2005*, which Senator Voinovich strongly supported, permanently bans Great Lakes drilling in the United States. It was signed into law by the President on August 8, 2005.

Securing Funding for the Great Lakes and Other Ohio Water Projects

As a member of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, Senator Voinovich was able to include important authorizations for programs that will directly benefit the Great Lakes in the *Water Resource Development Act of 2005* (WRDA), which he co-sponsored and helped author. WRDA passed out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in April and contains the following Great Lakes programs that Senator Voinovich personally included in the legislation:

- **Asian Carp Barrier** – This provision requires the Army Corps of Engineers to convert the existing Asian Carp Barrier to a permanent barrier and operate it at full federal expense and construct and operate a second barrier at full federal expense. It also allows any state that provides funds to the effort to be reimbursed through cost sharing of other projects;
- **Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystems Restoration Program** – This provision clarifies that a reconnaissance study is to be performed at full federal expense under a program created in WRDA 2000 in which the Corps cooperates with other agencies to plan, implement and evaluate projects supporting the restoration of the fishery, ecosystem and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes;

- **Great Lakes Sediment Management Program** – This provision extends until 2011 the authorization of the Great Lakes Sediment Management Program, which calls for the Corps to develop sediment transport models for Great Lakes tributaries. These computer models simulate the erosion, transport and deposition of sediments within a watershed, and they can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of soil conservation and other source control measures on the loadings of sediments and sediment contaminants to Great Lakes harbors and navigation channels;
- **Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans and Sediment Remediation Program** – This provision extends until 2011 the authorization of the Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans and Sediment Remediation Program, in which the Corps provides technical support to states and Remedial Action Plan committees so that the U.S. can meet its international obligations. Through the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada agreed to develop remedial action plans (RAPs) for each of the 43 internationally recognized areas of concern, 26 of which are wholly located in the United States. RAPs embody a comprehensive ecosystem approach to restoring and protecting beneficial uses and to identifying specific actions to resolve pollution problems;
- **Hocking River Basin Environmental Restoration** – WRDA will provide funding for a study to evaluate the applicability and feasibility of various restorations, including stream restoration, wetland creation and wildlife habitat restoration;
- **Toussaint River Navigation Project** – This project will maintain the federal navigation channel and manage ordinance-laden sediments generated by the Erie Army Depot;
- **Middle Bass Island State Park Marina** – This study will determine the feasibility of providing a full service Lake Erie marina facility and a safe harbor and beach at Middle Bass Island State Park; and
- **Lower Girard Lake Dam** – Funding will be used to develop a solution to repair and rehabilitate the dam.

WRDA is a big step forward to help address the water quality challenges in many of Ohio's communities. Senator Voinovich has long been an advocate of having better water infrastructure. WRDA was last enacted in 1999 and 2000 when the senator was chairman of the EPW Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Funding for Ohio Through Energy and Water Appropriations

It is of utmost importance that Ohio has full funding for its water infrastructure projects. The *2006 Energy and Water Conference Report* will ensure that Ohio is able to fulfill its environmental and research and development needs. The Senate passed this important piece of legislation in November, providing \$30.5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the Department of Energy (DOE), and a number of independent agencies, including the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

Overall, the bill provides almost \$5.4 billion to the Corps, \$1 billion more than the President's budget request and \$400 million more than the appropriation for 2005. This includes \$2.37 billion for construction and \$1.989 billion for operations and maintenance. It also provides \$24.29 billion for DOE, \$770,000 more than the President's request. Senator Voinovich helped secure the following funding for projects of importance to Ohio:

- **FutureGen** – Received in Conference Report: \$18 million. Senator Voinovich understands that affordable energy supplies are an important component of a healthy economy, especially for industrial states like Ohio. Coal represents nearly 90 percent of Ohio's generated electricity, yet it faces increasingly stringent environmental challenges. For this reason, he strongly supports

FutureGen as one viable answer to the need for clean, affordable supplies of energy from coal – Ohio’s most abundant and secure domestic fuel source.

- **Appalachian Regional Office** – Received in Conference Report: \$65.5 million. Since his days as governor of Ohio, Senator Voinovich has been strongly committed to helping Appalachian Ohio overcome its unique obstacles. The House *Energy and Water Appropriations Bill* included a cut in funding for the ARC budget. Knowing that such a cut in funding for the region would be devastating, Senator Voinovich joined with other supporters of the ARC to ensure that the funds would not be cut in the *Energy and Water Appropriations Conference Report*. Fortunately, the conference report provides the same level as the President’s request and the 2005 appropriation.
- **Research and Development of Fuel Processors for Fuel Cell Systems for Stationary Power Generation in Ohio** – Received in Conference Report: \$3 million. Funding will be used for the research and development of fuel processors for megawatt-scale oxide fuel cells for stationary power generation in Ohio. This money will be used by SOFCo-EFS (Alliance, Ohio) and Rolls Royce Fuel Cell Systems (Mount Vernon, Ohio). It will benefit Ohio by increasing knowledge related to fuel processing for fuel cell systems and supporting local manufacturing through supply-chain expansion.
- **Cincinnati Riverfront Plan** – Received in Conference Report: \$250,000. Cincinnati Central Riverfront Park (CRP) is located in downtown Cincinnati on the Ohio River, bounded by I-75, Broadway Street, the Ohio River and Third Street. The CRP site, currently a surface parking lot, is envisioned to become Cincinnati’s new “front yard,” complementing riverfront projects totaling \$2 billion. The park will be the setting for such projects as the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, a new multi-modal transit center, Paul Brown Stadium, Great American Ball Park and The Banks, the region’s preeminent development opportunity.
- **Cleveland Clinic Foundation Brain Mapping Project** – Received in Conference Report: \$1 million. The Cleveland Clinic is striving to develop state-of-the-art resources that will make brain imaging faster, more accurate, safer and less expensive. This funding will be used to purchase state-of-the-art imaging equipment that will have the ability to conduct magnetic resonance imaging that is safer for the growing number of patients with electronic devices. These resources will ensure that Cleveland Clinic neuroscientists and physicians can continue their groundbreaking research and deliver the best treatments possible to improve the lives of patients with diseases of the brain.
- **Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio: Pyramid Resource Center** – Received in Conference Report: \$2 million. This project will be a 225-acre premier international development focused on growing environmentally sensitive companies and industries. It will also serve as a training and research incubator for solid waste professionals from around the world. The incubator will be comprised of numerous businesses and will also offer technological support, act as an information and network clearinghouse, as well as a communications hub, complementing its training, research and business development activities.
- **Medical Screening and Outreach to Former Workers at Fernald Facility** – Received in Conference Report: \$1 million. The Medical Screening program provides outreach and screening to defense nuclear workers at Fernald Facility in Harrison who may have been exposed to radioactive and toxic substances. Tests are provided using DOE-approved protocols for beryllium disease, lung disease, cancer, hearing loss and other occupational illnesses.
- **Department of Energy Cleanup at Fernald Facility** – Received in Conference Report: \$327.6 million. Cleanups occur at Department of Energy facilities that were contaminated with radiological and hazardous materials resulting from DOE’s past operations building weapons during the Cold War.

- **Center for Intelligent Fuel Cell Materials Design** – Received in Conference Report: \$1.5 million. This funding will help develop power-efficient and economically viable materials for fuel cell usage in transportation, defense, aerospace and portable power applications. It will help develop a new, commercially viable manufacturing process for producing polymer exchange membranes (PEM) and membrane electrode assembly (MEA) to meet the performance requirements for the Department of Energy. Ohio has been at the forefront of fuel-cell research for a number of years. The Center for Intelligent Fuel Cell Materials Design is focused on addressing fuel cell-based, renewable energy and offering the ability to produce new high-tech jobs for the city of Mentor and Ohio. The money will be used by Chemsultants International, Inc. in Mentor, Ohio, and the Michigan Molecular Institute.
- **Medical Screening and Outreach to Former Workers at Mound Facility** – Received in Conference Report: \$1 million. The Medical Screening program provides outreach and screening to defense nuclear workers at Mound Facility in Miamisburg who may have been exposed to radioactive and toxic substances. Tests are provided using DOE-approved protocols for beryllium disease, lung disease, cancer, hearing loss and other occupational illnesses.
- **Department of Energy Cleanup at Mound Facility** – Received in Conference Report: \$105.5 million. Cleanups occur at Department of Energy facilities that were contaminated with radiological and hazardous materials resulting from DOE's past operations building weapons during the Cold War.
- **Medical Screening and Outreach to Former Workers at Portsmouth Facility, Paducah Facility in Kentucky and Oak Ridge Facility in Tennessee** – Received in Conference Report: \$465,000. The Medical Screening program provides outreach and screening to defense nuclear workers at Portsmouth Facility, as well as Paducah Facility in Kentucky and Oak Ridge Facility in Tennessee who may have been exposed to radioactive and toxic substances. Tests are provided using DOE-approved protocols for beryllium disease, lung disease, cancer, hearing loss and other occupational illnesses.
- **Department of Energy Cleanup at Portsmouth Facility** – Received in Conference Report: \$192.2 million. Senator Voinovich fought hard to stop a potential cut of \$17 million to this project and sent letters to conferees and to U.S. Energy Secretary Sam Bodman on the topic. Cleanups occur at Department of Energy facilities that were contaminated with radiological and hazardous materials resulting from DOE's past operations building weapons during the Cold War.
- **Ottawa River Shoreland Avenue Embankment Restoration and Stabilization Project** – Received in Conference Report: \$660,000. This project includes reconstruction of the Ottawa River shoreline and adjoining embankment and roadway. There has been considerable erosion of the roadway embankment of Shoreland Avenue between Suder Avenue and Washington Township.

2006 Interior Appropriations Bill

The 2006 Interior Appropriations bill included \$500,000 in funding for the Ohio University Consortium for Energy, Economics, and the Environment to serve as a resource for the region with the purpose of assembling expertise and technology to help Ohio and other states reduce air and water pollution. The Consortium will offer technical support for evaluating the impact of regulatory decisions and provide a forum for the states to address these policy issues.

Combating the Emerald Ash Borer

Senator Voinovich is pleased that the *2006 Agriculture Appropriations Conference Report* includes \$10 million to help combat the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The EAB, an ash-tree killing insect from Asia, was identified in Ohio in 2003. Since then, Senator Voinovich and Ohio officials have been working to

battle the pest in order to protect the state's more than 3.8 billion ash trees. EAB is a deadly threat to ash trees, killing host trees within three to five years of infestation. Research has shown that the natural spread of the pest is less than one-half mile per year. However, EAB can be easily, yet unknowingly, spread through the movement of infested ash material such as logs, nursery stock, and firewood. The majority of Ohio's infestations were introduced through the artificial spread of this insect. The pest was first discovered in Ohio in 2003.

Comments and Quotes on CUNO

"Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio), a former mayor and governor and an advocate for state and local governments, introduced legislation in May that would override the 6th Circuit's decision. The *Economic Development Act of 2005* (S. 1066) specifically authorizes states to grant tax incentives for economic development purposes that otherwise would impermissibly interfere with interstate commerce."

News Article, ***Protecting tax-exempt bonds and tax incentives***, Government Finance Review, August 1, 2005

"The *Economic Development Act of 2005*, introduced in May by Sens. George Voinovich, Ohio Republican, and Debbie Stabenow, Michigan Democrat, and every senator from the 6th Circuit's four states and Reps. Pat Tiberi, Ohio Republican, Ben Chandler, Kentucky Democrat, and Ron Lewis, Kentucky Republican, affirms states' rights to provide nondiscriminatory tax incentives for the purposes of economic development. This bipartisan group of legislators are acting none too soon because the threat is serious and real. While the Cuno decision has thrown open the question whether states and localities have the right to set their own tax policy by enacting positive tax incentives, the economic aspects of such incentives are beyond debate. For states, such tax incentives are one of the few tools available to them to retain or attract business."

Op-Ed by James T. Young, ***Benedict Arnold Courts***, Washington Times, July 24, 2005

"Now Ohio Sen. George Voinovich, U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler, D-Ky., and others are pushing a bill to neutralize that ruling and give all 50 states broad authority to do tax break deals. States today compete for business against Asia and Europe as much as against one another, and they should not have to compete at a global disadvantage. Most governors insist they need tax incentives to persuade companies to expand or relocate, and employers that make such decisions should not be left wondering if promised tax breaks will later be ruled invalid by the courts. Congress should clear up the doubt."

Editorial, ***Ensure legality of state jobs incentives***, Cincinnati Enquirer, May 23, 2005

Comments and Quotes on Intellectual Property Rights

"Voinovich, a critic of the administration's trade-enforcement practices, said he thinks Bush officials are making an effort to step up the pressure on countries such as China, but more needs to be done. He said he hoped the anti-piracy effort would help U.S. companies protect their intellectual-property rights abroad, and 'improve the federal government's overall efforts to fight intellectual-property theft.'"

News Article, ***Business owner testifies about intellectual-property theft***, Columbus Dispatch, June 15, 2005

"Voinovich also is concerned about Chinese theft of U.S. intellectual property rights. He brought to the meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao a packet of letters: One from him, urging the premier to save face by getting the nation to trade fairly, and the rest letters from U.S. manufacturers hit hard by rip-offs."

News Article, ***Voinovich presses China on fair-trade issue: Same topic holding up Portman nomination***, Dayton Daily News, April 18, 2005

Comments and Quotes on Energy

“Voinovich understands the need for an energy strategy that operates on many fronts, from renewables to nuclear power to improved efficiency.”

Editorial, ***Renewed Energy: The Senate Revives Hope that the Country Will Soon Address Its Energy Challenges in an Appropriately Comprehensive Way***, Akron Beacon Journal, July 3, 2005

“Sen. George V. Voinovich helped craft a trio of nuclear energy bills that emerged last week from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. The Ohio Republican, a member of the committee, said in a statement that he is a ‘strong advocate of nuclear power because it plays a critical role in meeting our nation’s energy, economic and environmental needs.’ The bills include proposals to strengthen nuclear power plant security and extend nuclear-plant liability protection for another 20 years, which proponents say is imperative for the construction of new nuclear plants.”

News Article, ***D.C. Dispatches: Voinovich helps to create bills protecting nuclear power***, Columbus Dispatch, June 12, 2005

“Senator Voinovich is a serious thinker about environmental matters.”

Editorial, ***Voinovich Has Idea on Clearing the Air***, Dayton Daily News, June 25, 2005

Comments and Quotes on the Environment

“U.S. Senator George Voinovich has responded with a remarkable piece of legislation that hasn’t just gained acceptance, but is being cheered loudly in the business, regulatory, scientific and environmental communities. If enacted, it would go a long way toward helping to solve a major public health problem.”

Editorial, ***Voinovich Has Idea on Clearing the Air***, Dayton Daily News, June 25, 2005

“The bill works to complement many of the administration’s policies regarding diesel fuel and emissions. Backers say it would support new EPA diesel fuel and engine regulations set to be implemented in June 2006, and Voinovich, himself, has taken pains to frame the bill to reflect this support.”

News Article, ***Heavy Diesel Retrofit Program Gains Energy Bill Acceptance***, Inside Fuels and Vehicles, June 20, 2005

“U.S. Sen. George Voinovich is shepherding a bill through the Senate that would give grants to retrofit old diesel engines to make them more emissions friendly. New federal regulations make new diesel engines cleaner. But, Voinovich, R-Ohio, doesn’t think that’s enough. That’s because the long lives of the estimated 11 million existing diesel engines could prevent the intended benefits of the new regulations from being seen for decades.”

News Article, ***Making diesels burn cleaner***, Cincinnati Post, July 25, 2005

“We’re also happy to report that the energy bill includes the voluntary incentives proposed by Ohio Sen. George Voinovich and others to encourage the installation of pollution control equipment on older diesel engines. It won’t do much to improve energy efficiency, but it will help clean the air.”

News Article, ***A disappointing effort***, Cincinnati Post, July 29, 2005

“George Voinovich also played a valuable role. If this Ohio Republican has yet to see the light (or heat) on global warming, he did markedly advance the cause of reducing emissions from diesel vehicles, the energy bill containing incentives for retrofitting the engines. Voinovich understands the need for an energy strategy that operates on many fronts, from renewables to nuclear power to improved efficiency.”

News Article, ***Renewed Energy: The Senate Revives Hope that the Country Will Soon Address Its Energy Challenges in an Appropriately Comprehensive Way***, Akron Beacon Journal, July 3, 2005

Improving Government

Through aggressive oversight and focused legislative changes, [Senator Voinovich] is providing the federal government with the tools it needs to recruit and retain the skilled employees required to meet our nation's changing needs. George Voinovich's integrity and commitment to building consensus to get things done for the American people are unsurpassed and have made him one of the nation's most respected and admired public servants.

-Private Sector Council, Twentieth Annual Leadership Awards Dinner, May 9, 2005

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee Chairman

Senator Voinovich is chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia. The Subcommittee's jurisdiction includes:

- The management, efficiency, effectiveness and economy of all departments, agencies and programs of the federal government, including overlap and duplication in federal programs;
- The intergovernmental relationships between the federal government and state and local governments;
- Federal civil service matters, including compensation, classification, labor management relations, recruitment and training, benefits including healthcare, and other matters relating to human capital management;
- The effectiveness of national security staffing; and
- All authorizing matters relating to the District of Columbia.

Senator Voinovich has made the reform of the federal workforce his top priority for the Subcommittee. However, his Subcommittee jurisdiction affords him the unique opportunity to investigate broad areas of federal government management and operations. Therefore, he has used the Subcommittee to conduct oversight of a wide range of agencies and programs. In addition, Senator Voinovich focuses greater attention on homeland security issues now that the Committee has been given the primary authorizing jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the Senate. Finally, Senator Voinovich continues to pursue improvements in the operations of the District of Columbia and U.S. Postal Service.

Senator Voinovich chaired 17 hearings in 2005 on a wide variety of topics:

- Unlocking the Potential within Homeland Security: the New Human Resources System – February 10, 2005;
- Programs In Peril: An Overview of the GAO High-Risk List – February 17, 2005;
- Critical Mission: Ensuring the Success of the National Security Personnel System – March 15, 2005;
- Monitoring CMS' Vital Signs: Implementation of the 2006 Medicare Drug Benefit – April 5, 2005;
- Passing the Buck: A Review of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act* – April 14, 2005;
- Employing Federal Workforce Flexibilities: A Progress Report – April 21, 2005;
- Waging War on Waste: An Examination of DoD's Business Practices – April 28, 2005
- Safeguarding the Merit System: A Review of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel – May 24, 2005;
- Finding and Fighting Fakes: Reviewing the Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy – June 14, 2005;
- Nominations hearing for Linda Springer, OPM Director, and District of Columbia Judges – June 15, 2005;
- Access Delayed: Fixing the Security Clearance Process – June 28, 2005;
- The War on Terrorism: How Prepared is the Nation's Capital? – July 14, 2005;

- Nominations hearing for District of Columbia Judges, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and the Federal Labor Relations Authority – September 13, 2005;
- Alternative Personnel Systems: Assessing Progress in the Federal Government – September 27, 2005;
- From Factory to Foxhole: Improving DoD Logistics – October 6, 2005;
- Access Delayed: Fixing the Security Clearance Process, Part II – November 9, 2005; and
- From Proposed to Final: Evaluating Regulations for the National Security Personnel System – November 17, 2005.

Strategic Human Capital

Attracting a Top-Notch Federal Workforce

Senator Voinovich has continued his commitment to addressing the future workforce needs of the federal government with a comprehensive oversight agenda. In the past four years, more reform has been enacted to the federal civil service than in the previous 25 years. Senator Voinovich has worked on a bipartisan basis to enact several major reforms for both the government as a whole and individual agencies; however, he recognizes that enacting legislation is only the first step in effecting reform. Congressional oversight of those reforms is crucial to ensure effective implementation.

On February 10, 2005, Senator Voinovich held a Subcommittee hearing to evaluate the final regulations for the new personnel system at the Department of Homeland Security. The hearing, entitled, “Unlocking the Potential within Homeland Security: the New Personnel System,” continued to stress the need for cooperation and open dialogue between the Department’s management and employees during implementation of the regulations. Furthermore, Senator Voinovich worked with the Administration and the Senate Committee on Appropriations to ensure adequate funding was provided to DHS as it continues with these important reforms.

During an April 21, 2005, human capital oversight hearing, “Employing Federal Workforce Flexibilities: A Progress Report,” Senator Voinovich conducted a review of recently enacted government-wide workforce flexibilities available to federal agencies. Participating in the hearing were representatives from the Department of Commerce, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Health and Human Services, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Through witness testimony, Senator Voinovich has been able to identify significant progress by federal departments and agencies in implementation, understanding, and use of the flexibilities, as well as identify areas of continued concern. OPM has improved its guidance and training programs for federal departments and agencies; in turn, agencies have progressed in utilizing the flexibilities in a strategic manner.

Senator Voinovich chaired a Subcommittee hearing on March 15 to discuss the proposed regulations for the new personnel system at the Department of Defense (DoD), the National Security Personnel System; he co-chaired a November 17 hearing of the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on the final regulations. Although much hard work remains to be done on implementation, the reforms underway at DoD are imperative in assisting it retain and recruit the workforce necessary to meet its national security mission.

Through a human capital oversight hearing on September 27, 2005, entitled “Alternative Personnel Systems: Assessing Progress in the Federal Government,” Senator Voinovich sought to identify broad principles of lessons learned through federal departments and agencies that have developed personnel systems different from the traditional of title 5 General Schedule. The Department of Commerce, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology shared with the Subcommittee their experiences in developing, implementing and managing pay for performance system. Senator Voinovich believes identifying and discussing these experiences is crucial as the Administration continues to seek additional flexibilities and reforms.

Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act

In 1991, Congress enacted legislation to allow federal agencies to repay federal employees' student loans. While this authority now is being used regularly by federal agencies to attract and keep high-quality employees, this benefit is taxed as income, effectively reducing its beneficial impact by approximately one-third. The *Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Educational Debt for Service Act of 2005*, sponsored by Senator Voinovich, seeks to amend the tax code to make such reimbursements non-taxable. This change will help federal agencies recruit and retain well-qualified graduates, and the government will no longer undermine its own loan repayment recruitment incentive. Senator Voinovich will push for its enactment next year.

Federal Law Enforcement Officer Reform

In the 108th Congress, Senator Voinovich introduced the *Federal Law Enforcement Pay and Benefits Parity Act*, which became law on December 19, 2003. This law required the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to review the classification, compensation and benefits of federal law enforcement officers and to recommend ways to alleviate any disparities. Expanding on the report's recommendation, Senator Voinovich issued a concepts paper for comprehensive federal law enforcement reform in October 2005. This paper was shared with the federal law enforcement stakeholder community, and the feedback received will be used to develop a legislative reform package that will bring common-sense parity to a disparate system that has fractured over time through the legislative, regulatory and judicial processes.

Government Management

Examining Mismanagement of Federal Programs

Senator Voinovich is concerned about improving the performance of federal programs. Every two years, beginning in 1990, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issues their high-risk series, which examines the challenges faced by federal programs and operations and recommends ways to improve their performance and accountability. Many of the programs on the GAO high risk list are dysfunctional and fail to deliver the intended services to the taxpayer. In other instances they are wasting huge sums of money that could be better used for higher priority programs or cutting the deficit. Senator Voinovich held a hearing to examine the high-risk list entitled, "Programs in Peril: An Overview of the GAO High-Risk List," on February 17, 2005. This hearing was conducted with two goals in mind. First, it provided a general overview of the GAO high-risk list. Second, Senator Voinovich used the testimony and discussion at the hearing to develop his strategy for focusing on two specific high-risk areas: the Department of Defense's Supply Chain and the Federal Government's Security Clearance Procedures.

Improving the Department of Defense's Supply Chain to Better Serve the Warfighter

Following the initial high-risk hearing, Senator Voinovich has embarked on a comprehensive review of the Department of Defense's supply chain management process. To this end, Senator Voinovich held two hearings related to supply chain management in the 109th Congress. The first was "Waging War on Waste: An Examination of DoD's Business Practices," on April 28, 2005; the second was "From Factory to Foxhole: Improving DoD Logistics," on October 6, 2005. Simply put, the goal of supply chain management is to deliver the "right items to the right place at the right time" for America's fighting men and women. There are two overarching principles to the senator's interest and involvement for improving the supply chain management process. First, with a budget of over \$420 billion, and \$77 billion worth of items in its inventory, DoD must be a better steward of the taxpayers' money. Second, inefficient, ineffective and redundant steps within the supply chain have a direct and immediate impact on American soldiers on the battlefield. Since the supply chain management issue has been on the GAO high-risk list since 1990, Senator Voinovich is committed to conducting comprehensive oversight through his Subcommittee to ensure that the Department improves this vital function. As a result of Senator

Voinovich's attention on this issue, DoD collaborated with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to develop a strategic plan that provides a roadmap for removing the long-standing high-risk designation from the Department's supply chain management initiative. Successful implementation of the plan, through continued collaboration between DoD, OMB, and GAO, will result in marked improvements in the supply chain management process. Therefore, the senator will hold these agencies accountable for results through oversight hearings until the issue is removed from the high-risk list.

Improving the Federal Government's Security Clearance Procedures

The second high-risk area under examination is the federal security clearance process. Over the past two years, a number of changes have occurred to improve the federal government's security clearance process. First, in an effort to streamline and improve the security clearance investigation process, section 906 of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004* authorized the transfer of DoD's personnel security investigative function to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). This included the transfer of 1,578 investigative employees. Under this directive, DoD retained the responsibility for adjudicating clearances for their military, civilian and contracting workforce. Second, in the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004*, Senator Voinovich offered an amendment to enhance and consolidate the federal government's security clearance process. This amendment was drafted based on specific recommendations outlined in the 9/11 Commission Report. Third, in January 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) designated the federal government's security clearance process as high-risk. Finally, on June 27, 2005, President Bush issued Executive Order 13381, which designates the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as the executive branch agency responsible for setting the policy for the security clearance process.

Since Senator Voinovich was integral in establishing the security clearance provisions in the *Intelligence Reform Act*, he is committed to fixing a process that has serious implications on the ability of the federal government's national security workforce to get the job done. Qualified civilian and contract workers are waiting too long for their security clearances. Simply put, failure to make the necessary improvements in the security clearance process impacts the safety of our nation. Senator Voinovich chaired two oversight hearings this year to monitor the progress in improving the security clearance process: "Access Delayed: Fixing the Security Clearance Process, Part I" on June 28, 2005, and Part II on November 9, 2005. He will continue to closely monitor this program. Like the supply chain management initiative, Senator Voinovich's involvement with the federal government's security clearance process led OPM to work with OMB, DoD and GAO on a strategic plan that outlines key action items for improving the process. The senator will continue his oversight investigation of the personnel security clearance process during the second session of the 109th Congress.

Review of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

As governor of Ohio, Senator Voinovich was instrumental in securing the passage of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act* (UMRA) in 1995. UMRA was designed to address concerns expressed by state and local governments about federal laws and regulations that require nonfederal parties to expend resources to achieve federal goals without being provided funding to cover the costs. The goal of UMRA therefore was to promote informed decisions by Congress on the appropriateness of federal mandates on other levels of government, and on the desirability of providing financial assistance for the costs of intergovernmental mandates.

As part of his federalism agenda, Senator Voinovich chaired an oversight hearing on April 14, 2005, entitled "Passing the Buck: A Review of the *Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*." The hearing provided a ten-year retrospective review of the impact that UMRA has had on federal, state and local governments, and explored whether changes are necessary to strengthen the law's procedures, definitions and

exclusions. Senator Voinovich is working with state and local government organizations, including the National Governors Association, to review any potential legislative solutions required for updating and enhancing UMRA.

Homeland Security

Improving Management of the Department of Homeland Security

The signing of the *Homeland Security Act* on November 25, 2002, initiated the federal government's largest restructuring since the creation of the Department of Defense in 1947. Like other large mergers, the leaders of the new Department of Homeland Security must contend with major organizational, operational and cultural issues as they attempt to meld a unified identity for DHS's twenty-two original agencies and 180,000 employees. Simultaneously, the federal government's newly created cabinet-level agency is charged with the monumental task of protecting our country against terrorism. This unique balance of creating the government's third largest department out of a patchwork of federal agencies, combined with its high-profile mission, underscores the importance of getting the job done right.

Senator Voinovich will work to continue to ensure that DHS has the proper tools to make necessary improvements in its operations. To this end, on September 15, he introduced S. 1712, the *Homeland Security Management Restructuring Act of 2005*. The legislation would create a Deputy Secretary for Management to provide essential management expertise and sustained leadership necessary for improving the long-term efficiency and effectiveness of DHS. Senator Voinovich is also a co-sponsor of S. 1866, the *Homeland Security Policy Act of 2005*. This legislation, written in response to Secretary Chertoff's recommendations under his second stage management review of the Department, establishes a Directorate for Policy headed by an Under Secretary for Policy, who would serve as the Secretary's principal policy advisor. Senator Voinovich will push for the passage of these two bills next year.

Enhancing Security for the Chemical Sector

Senator Voinovich has worked closely with Committee Chairman Susan Collins to address a variety of homeland security concerns. With the knowledge that terrorism is a persistent threat, there is heightened concern about the security of the nation's chemical industry. The full Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee has held four hearings on the issue. Senator Voinovich is currently working closely with his colleagues to draft meaningful legislation.

Senator Voinovich is keenly aware that the chemical industry plays a key role in our nation's high quality of life, whether it is crop production, temperature control, water chlorination, household cleaners or life-saving medications. In Ohio, the chemical industry directly employs 48,900 people; each one of these jobs creating an additional 6.2 jobs. Though the senator acknowledges the work that the industry has done to self-regulate in the absence of federal action, it has become increasingly clear that the federal government must provide a framework for the prevention of and protection against terrorist attacks that would compromise this nation's critical infrastructure.

The chemical industry is experiencing economic hardship as a result of rising natural gas costs, and Senator Voinovich will work to ensure that onerous federal requirements do not further jeopardize its viability. The senator will continue to work for legislation that protects this nation's chemical sector from the threat of terrorism, while ensuring that the chemical sector continues to enhance our quality of life.

Examining Disaster Relief Policy and the Federal Emergency Management Agency

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the nation's ability to prepare for and respond to natural or man-made disasters has been scrutinized. Senator Voinovich has participated in the full Committee's investigation of the federal response to Hurricane Katrina and how all levels of government can improve their ability to respond to disasters of all types.

Senator Voinovich is also conducting a review of the management, operations and organization of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In light of the recent reorganization of DHS and difficulties in response to the Hurricane Katrina catastrophe, FEMA faces many challenges in the near future. Accordingly, Senator Voinovich will work to ensure that the agency has the resources it needs to get the job done.

District of Columbia and U.S. Postal Reform

Leveling the Playing Field for High School Graduates in the District of Columbia

In 1999, Senator Voinovich worked to enact the *District of Columbia College Access Act*, which created the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant (D.C. TAG) program. The aim of this program is to assist District students who do not have access to state-supported education systems attend college. D.C. TAG scholarships are used by District residents to pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition at state universities nationwide, up to \$10,000 per student per school year, with a cumulative cap of \$50,000 per student. Since 2002, District students attending private institutions in Maryland and Virginia, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities nationwide, were eligible to receive annual tuition grants under the program of \$2,500 with a cumulative cap of \$12,500 per student.

Since the first grants were awarded in 2000, the program has dispersed over \$98 million to over 8,400 District students, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college. District high school graduating seniors have seen a twenty eight percent increase in college attendance since 2000. Seventy five percent of District students said that D.C. TAG made a difference in their decision to continue their education beyond high school. Furthermore, 65 percent of District students have indicated that D.C. TAG has enabled them to choose a college that best suits their educational needs.

Due to the overwhelming success and positive impact of this program, Senator Voinovich introduced S. 2060, a bill to extend the *District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999* for five years and expand the program to private schools nationwide, thereby creating greater equity between all private colleges, while establishing a cap on program funding at the current appropriation of \$33.2 million annually.

Better Management of Federal Land in the District of Columbia

Senator Voinovich understands the special relationship between the federal government and the District of Columbia. Because of this relationship, Congress shares in the responsibility of ensuring that the nation's capital remains a economically, socially and culturally vibrant city. Senator Voinovich introduced legislation, S. 1838, the *Federal and District of Columbia Government Real Property Act of 2005*, proposed by the Bush Administration and supported by the District government, which would transfer underutilized federal land to the District of Columbia. Through this the District would gain the ability to spur economic development, better address the needs of its citizens, and increase the local tax base. Senator Voinovich will push for its enactment next year.

Sustaining the Postal Service

For rural Ohio, the Postal Service provides a vital communication and economic link to the rest of Ohio, the nation and the world. Because of the importance of the Postal Service, Senator Voinovich is co-sponsor of S. 662, the *Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2005*. This is comprehensive, bipartisan legislation that would sustain the Postal Service for years to come and put the Postal Service on solid financial footing. The bill endorses the basic features that many Ohioans depend on such as universal service, affordable rates, frequent delivery and convenient community access to retail Postal services. Senator Voinovich will continue to work on its enactment.

Comments and Quotes on Human Capital

“Some of the least noticed hearings being held in Washington should have a large, lasting impact on homeland security. Ohio Sen. George Voinovich chairs the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia, which is part of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. These boring-sounding bodies follow the nuts-and-bolts functioning of federal agencies, a task that may get more notice in the post-Katrina world. Editorial, *Levees’ Breach Exposes Bigger Weaknesses*, Dayton Daily News, November 17, 2005

“Characteristically, Voinovich devoted most of his time last week to what he typically focuses on: trying to bring some modicum of organization and oversight to a Senate that has a lot more pontificators than managers.... It’s easy to make fun of Voinovich, or to call him boring or overly obsessed with administrative minutiae. Much of Voinovich’s work is done in a much less-than sensational manner, but the Senate could use a few more lawmakers who care more about making the trains run on time than ratcheting up the rhetoric.”

Column, *Voinovich Avoids the Rhetoric While Working to Get Things Done*, Columbus Dispatch, October 9, 2005

“Veteran Voinovich watchers are fully acquainted with his devotion to the practical. He likes to get things done.... That sensibility extends to his understanding of the importance of an effective federal work force.”

Editorial, *Full Voinovich in Full View*, Akron Beacon Journal, May 15, 2005

“Anyone who has watched the political career of Republican Senator George Voinovich can recite his mantra for government efficiency: ‘Work harder and smarter, and do more with less.’ But the corollary of his approach has been a demonstrated respect for the workers so tasked – the cogs in the wheels of government operations, the ‘human capital’ in whose interests Voinovich has invested so much time in his years in the Senate, as Ohio’s governor and Cleveland’s mayor. Demand more, yes; but honor and reward good efforts as well.”

Editorial, *A Delay, by George: When Senator Voinovich Threw a Wrench in Bolton hearings, He Was Only Being True to Form and to His Principles*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, April 22, 2005

“In the Senate, he has pushed initiatives aimed at improving the federal government’s hiring practices and has chided federal agencies that cut back on training programs for employees. At congressional hearings, he often tries to emphasize the positive and encourages efforts to create a smarter and more efficient federal workforce.”

Column, *Ohio Senator Known For Independence; Bolton Stance Illustrates Personnel Focus*, Washington Post, May 10, 2005

“Senator Voinovich is someone willing to labor in some of the least glamorous vineyards in order to bring out the best wine. He takes his public service role seriously and understands where he can make the biggest difference for the American people.”

Max Stier, President of the Nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, May 9, 2005

Comments and Quotes on GAO High-Risk List

“Subcommittee Chairman George Voinovich, R-Ohio, was so impressed with the administration's plan that he said GAO might be compelled to remove the Defense Department's security clearance program from its biennial list of programs with major management challenges. GAO added the clearance program to its high-risk list in January.”

News Article, *OPM speeds security clearances: Top-secret case backlog cut 25% – and may shrink more*, Federal Times, November 14, 2005

“GAO deserves applause for targeting the government's severest trouble spots. But it can only do so much. It is a relief that Voinovich and Johnson have committed themselves to go after perhaps the biggest of the government's chronic money-wasters – the Defense Department. Let's hope they can deliver enough clout to finally turn things around.”

Editorial, *Reaching stubborn DoD*, Federal Times, February 21, 2005

Comments and Quotes on Hurricane Katrina

“Senator Voinovich has developed an impressive factual mastery both of the technical and human dimensions of Hurricane Katrina and the federal government's response. To what end? Partly to provide a public accounting of federal agencies' planning and performance, not just in New Orleans but through much of the Gulf Coast.”

Editorial, *Levees' Breach Exposes Bigger Weaknesses*, Dayton Daily News, November 17, 2005

““Their main job is to deal with natural disasters, and they have an additional layer of responsibility now,” said Republican Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio, a champion of the reorganization plan who has helped FEMA get more money for emergency responders.”

News Article, *9/11 set FEMA's failure in motion: Reorganization shifted its focus from disaster relief*, Cleveland Plain Dealer, September 11, 2005

“Sen. George Voinovich, a former mayor and a former governor who sits on one of the committees that oversees the Department of Homeland Security, is among a handful of lawmakers who have been trying to increase federal funding for the “all-hazards” responsibilities that FEMA has historically handled. In particular, he wants to provide more money to help state and local governments prepare for emergencies of all sorts. Perhaps this year he'll have more success.”

News Article, *Pointing the Finger*, Cincinnati Post, September 7, 2005

Awards and Honors

Recognition for Senator Voinovich's Work in 2005

Economic Development

- U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of Enterprise Award for support of pro-business issues during the second session of the 108th Congress. March 2005
- The Farm Bureau Federation's "Friend of Farm Bureau Award" for commitment to the agriculture industry during the 108th Congress. March 2005
- The National Association of Manufacturing Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence for a favorable voting record on manufacturing issues. March 2005

Foreign Affairs, Defense and Homeland Security

- National Emergency Management Association's 2005 Congressional Recognition Award for work in recognizing the importance of emergency management and homeland security. February 2005
- The Decoration of the Golden Order of Merit of the Republic of Slovenia for leadership in the Senate on issues dealing with Slovenia and Southeast Europe. May 2005

Public Service, Civic and Charitable

- Jobs for Ohio's Graduates award in appreciation of outstanding record of commitment to Jobs for Ohio's Graduates and Ohio's youth. March 2005
- Cleveland Club of Washington, D.C. Harold Hitz Burton Award for Distinguished Public Service and dedication to the people of Cleveland throughout his public service career. April 2005
- The Private Sector Council Leadership Award for work in reforming the federal workforce and making sure government programs and systems are well-managed. May 2005
- Ohio University Alumnus of the Year Award for extraordinary dedication to his alma-mater. October 2005